



# CENTENARY REVIEW

OF THE

# ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL

From 1784 to 1883.

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*Published by the Society.*

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL CENTENARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY





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PART I.  
HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

BY  
RAJENDRALALA MITRA, LL D, CIE

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# Centenary Review

OF THE

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL.

*From 1784 to 1883*



Part II.

## HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

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Introduction — Foundation of the Society — Foundation Members — Name — Object — Rules — Ordinary Members — Honorary Members — Associate Members — Corresponding Members — Patrons — President — Vice-President — Secretary — Treasurer — Council — Special Committees — Meetings — House — Library — European books — Oriental Manuscripts — Summary of the Library — Inscriptions — Coins — Pictures and Basts — Museum — Publications — Asiatic Researches — Journal — Proceedings — Oriental Publications — Miscellaneous Publications — Conservation of Sanskrit Manuscripts — Funds — Bead-roll — Summary

A HUNDRED years have elapsed—a century of arduous and unremitting labour, and the time has now arrived for a review of the progress made and of the services rendered to the cause of literature and science by the Asiatic Society of Bengal since its foundation. Such a review will be as useful in showing what has been accomplished, as in suggesting what has to be done in the vast field which remains yet unexplored. It will be to the Society what periodical stock-taking is to mercantile firms. It will also prove a source of profound satisfaction to those who now represent the Society for the eminent success with which they and their predecessors have worked for the advancement of knowledge.

For convenience of treatment, this Review will be divided into three parts—1st. giving a succinct history of the Society; 2nd. a *resumé* of the papers published on science generally; 3rd. a *précis* of all researches into archaeology, history, literature. &c.

The idea of forming the Society was conceived by Sir William Jones, who came out to Calcutta in October 1783 as a Puisne Judge of the late Supreme Court at Fort William in Bengal. A distinguished scholar and linguist who had already acquired considerable familiarity with some of the classics of India and enthusiastically devoted to oriental researches, he soon noticed the want of an organized association in Calcutta as a drawback to progress. He felt, to quote his own language, "that in the fluctuating, imperfect, and limited erudition of life, such enquiries and improvements could only be made by the united efforts of many, who are not easily brought, without some pressing inducement or strong impulse, to converge in a common point." Accordingly, while he engaged himself in the study of the Sanskrit language, which he had till then not acquired, he invited the co-operation of the leading men of the time in Calcutta for the formation of an institution where united action could be taken to promote the study of oriental literature and science and where, by the co-operation of the many, the talents and abstract studies of the few would prove most effectual, and derive the stimulus which emulation, publicity, and a common interest never fail to excite. His exertions were warmly seconded by his friends, and a meeting was held on Thursday, the 15th of January 1784, to come to some definite resolution. Thirty gentlemen attended this meeting, and they represented the *élite* of the European community in Calcutta at the time. The chair

was taken by Sir Robert Chambers, and the proceedings were opened by Sir William Jones, who delivered a learned and very suggestive "Discourse on the Institution of a Society for enquiring into the History, civil and natural, the Antiquities, Arts, Sciences, and Literature of Asia" The address was enthusiastically received, and a resolution was come to establishing the Society under the name of the 'ASIATICK SOCIETY'

The gentlemen who took part at this meeting and ~~Foundation~~ Mem- bers became the founders<sup>1</sup> of the Society were then, or subsequently became, the leading officers of the East India Company in this country, and included among them all the principal contributors to the pages of the Society's Transactions

The name adopted for the Society at the inaugural meeting was borne on the records till the close of the fourth decade of this century. In 1829, soon after the establishment of the Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland in London, and the affiliation of the Literary Society of Bombay with that institution, a letter was received from the latter offering to the Calcutta Society the privilege of being affiliated, and in this letter it was for the first time

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<sup>1</sup> These were Sir Robert Chambers, Kt, Chief Justice Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Hyde, Puisne Judge Supreme Court, Sir William Jones, Kt Puisne Judge Supreme Court, General John Curnac, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Watson, David Anderson Esq, Henry Vansittart Esq, Charles Croftes Esq, William Chambers, Esq, Richard Johnson Esq, John Shore Esq (afterwards a Baronet and then Lord Teignmouth) Francis Gladwin Esq, Charles Chapman Esq, Nathaniel Middleton Esq Major William Davy Charles Wilkins, Esq (afterwards knighted), Jonathan Duncun Esq, John Bristow, Esq, Thomas Graham Esq, Francis Fowke Esq, Thomas Law, Esq, Captain Jonathan Scott, Francis Balfour Esq, J David Paterson Esq, Ralph Broome Esq, Burrish Crisp Esq, Lieutenant James Anderson, Lieutenant Charles Hamilton, T Reuben Burrow, Esq; and George Hillarow Barlow, Esq (afterwards made a Baronet)



designated as the "Asiatic Society of Bengal;" but the Society did not accept the change.<sup>1</sup> As the parent of all the Asiatic Societies extant,\* it fitly retained its original name of THE Asiatic Society. In March 1832, when Mr. James Prinsep sought the sanction of the Society to use its name for the Journal he was then about to start, the resolution adopted used the words 'Asiatic Society' only (Journal, Vol. I, p. i); but the editor deemed it convenient for his purposes to add a local designation, and the Society took no notice of it. In 1843, when this Journal became the property of the Society, the new name had already become familiar, and it was formally introduced in the Code of Bye-laws published in 1851.

In the terms of the original resolution, the object of the Society was "enquiry into the his-  
 Object of the So- cety. tory and antiquities, arts, sciences, and literature of Asia" Dilating on this definition, Sir William Jones remarked: "You will investigate whatever is rare in the stupendous fabric of nature; will correct the geography of Asia by new observations and discoveries; will trace the annals and even traditions of those nations who, from time to time, have peopled or desolated it; and will bring to light their various forms of Government, with their institutions, civil and religious; you will examine their improvements and methods in arithmetic and geometry—in trigonometry, mensuration, mechanics, optics, astronomy and general physics; their systems of morality, grammar, rhetoric and dialectic; their skill in chirurgery and medicine, and their advancement, whatever it may be, in anatomy and chemistry. To this you will add researches into their agriculture, manufacture, and trade;

and, whilst you enquire into their music, architecture, painting, and poetry, will not neglect those inferior arts, by which comforts, and even elegances of social life, are supplied or improved." To give emphasis to these details, Sir William Jones added:—"It now it be asked, what are the intended objects of our enquiries within these spacious limits we answer, MAN and NATURE; whatever is performed by the one, or produced by the other." These words have since been paraphrased into—"The bounds of its investigations will be the geographical limits of Asia, and within these limits its enquiries will be extended to whatever is performed by man, or produced by nature," and this sentence now serves as the motto of the Society. How far this resolution has been faithfully and diligently carried out will be shown in the following pages.

In his inaugural address Sir William Jones expressed a strong feeling of disapprobation against an elaborate code of rules. He said:

#### Rules

"It may be advisable at first, in order to prevent any difference of sentiment on particular points not immediately before us, to establish but one rule,—namely, to have no rules at all." He, however, qualified this by adding, "This only I mean, that, in the infancy of any society, there ought to be no confinement, no trouble, no expense, no unnecessary formality. Let us, if you please, for the present, have weekly evening meetings in this hall for the purpose of hearing original papers read on such subjects as fall within our enquiries. Let all curious and learned men be invited to send their tracts to our Secretary, for which they ought immediately to receive our thanks; and if, towards the end of each year, we should be supplied with a sufficiency of valuable materials to fill a volume, let us present our ASIATIC Miscellany to the literary

world, who have derived so much pleasure and information from the agreeable work of Kaempfer than which we can scarcely propose a better model, that they will accept with eagerness any fresh entertainment of the same kind. You will not perhaps be disposed to admit mere translations of considerable length, except of such unpublished essays or treatises as may be transmitted to us by native authors; but whether you will enrol as members any number of learned Natives you will hereafter decide, with many other questions as they happen to arise; and you will think I presume, that all questions should be decided by ballot by a majority of two-thirds, and that nine members should be requisite to constitute a board for such decisions.

\* \* \* One thing only as essential to your dignity I recommend with earnestness—on no account to admit a new member who has not expressed a voluntary desire to become so; and in that case, you will not require, I suppose, any other qualification than a love of knowledge and a zeal for the promotion of it.<sup>11</sup> No formal resolution was adopted in regard to these suggestions, but they were unanimously accepted as the rules of the Society, and uniformly acted upon for several years. In August 1796, the necessity having been felt for devising “the best means of rendering the Institution permanent, and for determining whether a house should be provided for the future meetings of the Society,”<sup>12</sup> some new rules were framed, and the suggestions of the founder were reduced into the form of rules. Other rules were framed from time to time to meet special occasions, but nothing like a regular code was adopted until the beginning of the second half of this century. On the retirement of

Mr. Henry Torrens, the affairs of the Society were found to be in great disorder, and considerable differences of opinion existed on many important matters. A complete code of rules, providing for all contingencies, was, therefore, deemed urgently necessary, and a committee was appointed to prepare the same. After much deliberation and examination of the rules of European societies, the Committee submitted a new Code of Bye-laws, which was formally adopted on January 5, 1851<sup>1</sup>. One important clause in the Code required that every candidate for admission as an ordinary member shall address a letter stating that "he is anxious to promote the progress of science and literature, and is desirous of becoming a member of the Society." This was done as much in accordance with the opinion of the founder, who had strongly urged in his inaugural address, "not to admit a new member who had not expressed a voluntary desire to become so," as with a view to prevent unseemly repudiation of membership which had occurred in some cases. In practice, however, this rule was found to be unworkable, and had soon to be rescinded. Other clauses were also found troublesome, and a general revision was called for in 1859. On the establishment of the Indian Museum, the altered circumstances of the Society requiring extensive changes in the rules, a new Code was adopted in 1869.<sup>2</sup> This had again to be recast in 1876,<sup>3</sup> and the last is the one now in force, with a few amendments since adopted.

The founder's inaugural address did not suggest any rule for the selection of members, but  
 Ordinary Members at the second meeting of the Society  
 (January 22, 1784) members were proposed, who were

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings.<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, January 1869, p 10<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, November 1876, p 204

balloted for and elected at the next meeting. At the third meeting such propositions were seconded, and ordered for ballot at the following meeting; and this plan has ever since been uniformly followed.

At first it was not expected that the Natives of this country would join the Society, and Sir William Jones said, "whether you will enrol as members any number of learned Natives you will hereafter decide;" and the question was not mooted for many years afterwards. On January 7, 1829, Dr. H. H. Wilson proposed some native names, and they were elected; similar propositions were subsequently made from time to time, and duly adopted. In the Code of Rules now in force, it is laid down, that "persons of all nations shall be eligible as members of the Society"

As the Society met at the Grand Jury Rooms of the Supreme Court, and no expense of any kind had to be incurred, the Members were not called upon to make any pecuniary contribution to the Society. In 1796, when the idea of providing a suitable house was first mooted, funds had to be raised by subscription, and it was ruled that Ordinary Members should pay a quarterly contribution of one gold mohur each for the support of the Society, old Members being required to make up for their previous membership by a payment of two gold mohurs each, in lieu of the entrance-fee which all new Members were called upon to contribute. The rule regarding the quarterly subscriptions was altered in 1859, when the amount was reduced to Rs. 12 a quarter for resident members, and Rs. 6 for non-residents. Looking to the numerical weakness of European society in India, and to the arduous character of the various occupations in which its members are engaged, it would be unreasonable to expect that many men would be found to devote their time to literary and scientific

pursuits. Such pursuits require leisure and ease of circumstances, early literary training, and an affluent retired life. Europeans coming to India have to fight the battle of existence, or to discharge onerous official duties, and when they have earned a competence and run through their allotted course of official career, they return to Europe to enjoy a life of ease. Natives, on the other hand, have, generally speaking, a defective education in early life, and cannot engage in researches, the fruits of which have to be recorded in a foreign language. The Asiatic Society has thus always laboured under a double disadvantage. But as Milton truly remarks, — “no man who hath tasted learning but will confess the many ways of profiting by those who, not contented with stale receipts, are able to manage and set forth new positions to the world,” and the highly educated gentlemen, who came out in the civil, the medical, and the military services of the East India Company, fully bore out the truth of the observation. Notwithstanding the heavy duties they had to discharge in their respective spheres, many of them contributed largely to the efficiency, the stability, and the advancement of the Society by their literary labours and scientific researches. It is worthy of note, and not a little singular, that the members of the Civil Service took a much more prominent position in this respect than those of the more learned professions. As was to be expected, merchants, tradesmen, and other non-official Europeans took but a slender share in the work of the Society. The steady growth of the Society is best shewn in the statement given in Appendix A. It shows that, commencing with a total of 30 names, the number of members rose, at the close of 1788, to 89, and in 1876, when the subscription of resident members was brought down to Rs. 9 per quarter, to 285. It should be added,

however, that the various lists from which the statement has been compiled are misleading, as they do not discriminate under one uniform rule the efficient from non-efficient and absent members.

There is no record, in the first volume of the Proceedings, of any resolution having been adopted, laying down a principle for the election of Honorary Members. The first person elected as an Honorary Member was M. Carpentier de Cossigny. He was proposed by an Ordinary Member, seconded by another, and balloted for and elected in due course. Other elections followed from time to time, but without any definite rule. Exception was, however, taken to this course in 1828, and, in January 1829, it was resolved "that Honorary Members be in future proposed only by the Committee of Papers, members of the Society not in the Committee communicating their recommendation of an individual as an Honorary Member to the Committee, either directly or through the Secretary. The Committee not to be expected to assign any reasons, should they not see cause to make the nomination." When the resolutions and rules of the Society were codified in 1851, the qualifications for an Honorary Member were laid down to be "eminence for his knowledge of, or encouragement given to, science or literature, or for services rendered to the Society, to be testified by a written statement and supported by the votes of a majority of three-fourths of the members present at a meeting," limiting the elections at the same time to thirty in all. In 1876, the rule was further modified by omitting all reference to services to the Society. The roll of the Society shows that, on the whole, the selections have been judiciously made. It includes the names of all the European savans who distinguished themselves

most by their oriental scholarship, and a great number of eminent scientific men of the last hundred years, as also two renowned Indian scholars,—Sri Rádhákánta, Bahádur, and Professor Bápudeva Sástrí

Another class of members was established on May 6, 1835, to secure the co-operation of competent persons in India, who would not offer themselves as candidates for ordinary membership. This was called Associate Member, to whom was assigned all the privileges of Ordinary Members except that of voting at the meetings of the Society. Under the rules now in force, this class is reserved for “persons well-known for their literary or scientific attainments, but who are not likely to become Ordinary Members” Their number is limited to 15

A fourth class of members was established in 1851 to recognize the services of correspondents in foreign countries, but it was not much appreciated, and therefore abolished in 1869.

At the second meeting of the Society, Sri William Jones submitted draft of a letter to Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor-General and President, and Edward Wheeler John Macpherson, and John Stables, Esqs., Members of the Council of Fort William in Bengal, requesting them to become patrons of the Society. The draft was approved, and the assent of the Governor-General and Council having been obtained, they were, at a subsequent meeting, duly elected. This election became a precedent, which was regularly followed until the time of Lord William Bentinck : on his election as patron, the Members of his Council were left out. Since then the practice has been to elect only the Governor-General as patron



Along with the letter above referred to, a second was addressed to Mr Warren Hastings, requesting him to accept the office of President of the Society. The offer, however, was declined. While expressing his appreciation of the honor done him by the offer, Mr. Hastings said.—“From an early conviction of the utility of the institution, it was my anxious wish that I might be, by whatever means, instrumental in promoting the success of it; but not in the mode which you have proposed, which, I fear, would rather prove, if of any effect, an incumbrance on it. I have not the leisure requisite to discharge the functions of such a station, nor, if I did possess it, would it be consistent with the pride, which every man may be allowed to avow in the pursuit or support of the objects of his personal credit, to accept the first station in a department in which the superior talents of my immediate followers in it would shine with a lustre, from which mine must suffer much in the comparison, and to stand in so conspicuous a point of view the only ineffective member of a body, which is yet in its infancy, and composed of members with whose abilities I am, and have long been, in the habits of intimate communication, and know them to be all eminently qualified to fill their respective parts in it

“On these grounds I request your permission to decline the offer which you have done me the honor to make to me, and to yield my pretensions to the gentleman whose genius planned the institution, and is most capable of conducting it to the attainment of the great and splendid purposes of its formation

“I at the same time earnestly solicit your acceptance of my services in any way in which they can be, and I hope that they may be, rendered useful to your researches.”

In accordance with the suggestion contained in the above extract, Sir William Jones was elected President of the Society on February 5, 1784. He held the office till his demise on April 27, 1794. He was succeeded by Sir John Shore, who then held the office of Governor-General. In subsequent years, two other Governors General, the Marquis of Hastings and Lord Hardinge, held the same office. It was found, however, that the reasons assigned by Mr. Warren Hastings were correct, and that the duties of so exalted an office as that of Governor-General of India did not admit of that close application on the part of the President to the duties of the Society, which was so desirable. The elections, therefore, have been confined to distinguished persons whose knowledge and zeal and opportunities were best calculated to promote the interests of the Society. The names of all the Presidents are shown in the Statement hereto annexed (Appendix B).

In anticipation of the acceptance of the office of President by Mr. Warren Hastings, Sir William Jones was elected Vice-President at the second meeting of the Society. But on his election soon after to the Presidentship, the office became vacant, and none was appointed in his place. On his death, however, when the office of President was held by Sir John Shore, the then Governor-General of India, some inconvenience was felt owing to his inability to attend every meeting of the Society, and in 1796 a resolution was adopted to appoint two Vice-Presidents. The number was afterwards raised to 3, and subsequently to 4, but by the rules now in force it is limited to 3. The Statement given in Appendix B shows the names of all the Vice-Presidents.

Immediately after the establishment of the Society, Mr.

## Secretary

George Hillarow Barlow undertook the duties of Secretary ; but, two months after, Mr. John Herbert Haington was appointed Secretary by formal resolution, and for fifty years afterwards, one Secretary, aided at times by a Deputy Secretary, sufficed for the despatch of the Society's ordinary business, the financial affairs being conducted by a Treasurer. On the retirement of Mr. James Prinsep, two Secretaries were deemed necessary, besides the Treasurer, and a third was added some time afterwards. Under the rules now in force, the number of Secretaries is not fixed, but four are generally appointed : one General Secretary, one Natural Science Secretary, one Philological Secretary, and one Treasurer.

## Treasurer.

In 1796, when subscriptions first began to be collected, Mr. Trail, of the firm of Palmer and Co., Merchants, was appointed Treasurer, and his firm undertook to transact all banking business for the Society. In 1803, a native clerk was engaged to keep accounts, but all financial business continued to be conducted by Messrs Palmer and Co. After a time, the duty of collecting subscriptions was made over to the clerk. On the failure of Palmer and Co in 1828, the custody of the finances was made over to Messrs Macintosh and Co., and after their failure in 1833, to the Bank of Bengal. The clerk above referred to was the late Bábu Rámacómal Sen. He served the society for nearly forty years, latterly holding the office of what was called 'Native Secretary,' but really that of Treasurer. In 1840, Mr. Bolsi, an uncovenanted assistant in the Bengal Secretariat, was appointed Treasurer, and he kept the records in the Bengal Office, or in his private dwelling. On his dismissal from the Bengal Office, the account-books of the Society could not be recovered.

In 1816, one of the Secretaries became the Treasurer, and that arrangement has continued since

Soon after its establishment, the Society appointed a Committee of Papers, consisting of the Council President, the Secretary, and four other members, to conduct its affairs. In November 1796, this Committee was strengthened by the addition of two Vice-Presidents, and four other members, and in 1849, another addition was made, bringing up the total to fifteen, including the office-bearers. Under the rules now in force, the minimum is fixed at fifteen, and the maximum at twenty.

In 1816, several active Committees having been organized, it was deemed expedient, with a view to prevent misunderstanding and confusion, to change the name of the Committee of Papers and to designate it the Council, as the governing body of the Society.

Although the Society was established with a view to hold weekly meetings for exchange of notes among members and reading of papers on subjects of interest, the necessity soon arose for appointing special Committees for the consideration of questions of importance. Such Committees were, however generally temporary, and their functions ceased with the determination of the questions referred to them. On the completion of the Society's house, when the means and accommodation for steady, continuous, and combined action were easy of access, Dr Hare, in June 1808, moved, seconded by Dr Leyden, "that a Committee be appointed for the purpose of physical investigations, the collection of facts, specimens, and correspondence with individuals whose situations in this country may be favorable for such discussions and investigations." This the mover subsequently modified, and recommended two Com-

mittees, one for "Natural History, Philosophy, Medicine, Improvements of the Arts, and whatever is comprehended in the general term of *Physics*;" and another "for Literature, Philology, History, Antiquities, and whatever is comprehended under the general term of *Literature*." This recommendation was, after some consideration, formally adopted on September 7, 1808, and the following elections were made:—

*Physical Committee*

J Farquhar, Esq  
 Dr J. Leyden.  
 Lieutenant A Lockett.  
 George Davidson, Esq  
 Rev W Carey  
 W. Hunter, Esq

*Literary Committee*

J H Harrington, Esq  
 Dr J Leyden  
 Lieutenant A. Lockett.  
 H B Bayley, Esq.  
 H. P. Forbes, Esq  
 Rev W Carey.  
 W Hunter, Esq

It was at the same time resolved that other members of the Society should be invited to join the Committees and to frame rules for the conduct of their investigations. The Committees met several times, and prepared lists of desiderata and carried on some correspondence; but, after a time, they fell into disuetude, and no record is now extant of their proceedings. In 1818, the Physical Committee was revived, and it was in active work for several years; but its proceedings are not now forthcoming. At the annual meeting of the Society, on December 13, 1821, Dr Wilson, then Secretary, proposed that "special Committees should be appointed to report upon the papers received by the Society and for other purposes, as also a House Committee, the President, one Vice-President, and the Secretary, being *ex officio* members of all the Committees". But its consideration was deferred, and never after taken up. In 1828, a Committee was appointed "to promote geological researches, working under the rules then in force for the Physical Com-

mittee, with such modifications as may be deemed expedient." Dr Calder was appointed its Secretary. At the same time the Transactions of the Society were divided into two parts, one to be devoted to Physical, and the other to Literary, subjects. The Physical Committee was in active work for some time, and spent large sums of money in boring operations in Fort William and other researches. A Statistical and a Finance Committee were appointed soon after. No rules, however, were laid down for the annual election of the Committees, and they fell again into abeyance. In 1847, the then Committee of Papers, adverting to the constitution of their body, which, though intended to represent the different objects of the Society, had at one time been almost exclusively composed of gentlemen who deemed Oriental Literature the paramount object of the Society, and at another period of those under whom researches in Oriental Philology were nearly abandoned in favor of Zoology and kindred sciences, recommended the appointment of Sections, or Standing Committees, for (1) Oriental Literature, (2) Zoology and Natural History, (3) Geology and Mineralogy, (4) Meteorology and Physics, (5) Geography and Indian Statistics, (6) Finances. The elections for these Committees took place at the annual meeting, and were followed up by fresh elections every year until the By-laws of 1851 placed the appointment of Committees at the disposal of the Council. An Historical Committee and a Coin Committee have since been added.

As already incidentally noticed, the original object of the Society was to hold weekly meetings in imitation of the hebdomadal gatherings of the Royal Society two centuries ago, but this could not be regularly carried out for any length of time. In England, the professors of colleges, ministers of

Meetings

religion, and educated men of independent means and retired from business, have a great deal of leisure time, and a habitual liking for literary and scientific researches, for which they are regularly trained by their system of education. In Calcutta, on the other hand, at the close of the last century, these classes were entirely wanting. As stated in the Introduction to the first volume of the Researches, "a mere man of letters, retired from the world and allotting his whole time to philosophical or literary pursuits, is a character unknown among Europeans resident in India, where every individual is a man of business in the civil or military state, and constantly occupied either in the affairs of Government, in the administration of justice, in some department of revenue or commerce, or in one of the liberal professions; very few hours, therefore, in the day or night, can be reserved for any study that has no immediate connection with business, even by those who are most habituated to mental application, and it is impossible to preserve health in Bengal without regular exercise and reasonable relaxation of mind." And under the circumstances, notwithstanding the earnestness and devotion of the founders and a large body of very able men who placed themselves under the standard of the Society, papers could not be produced in such rapid succession as to keep up the interest of the weekly meetings. After the first few months, frequent interruptions followed, and during the close of the rains in the beginning of autumn, meetings had to be suspended for weeks. After the death of the founder, a resolution had to be adopted to hold monthly, instead of weekly, meetings<sup>1</sup>. In six months' time, even monthly meetings were found to

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for December 5, 1799.

be too frequent, and a meeting once every three months was held sufficient<sup>1</sup>. The interval fixed by the last resolution, however, was found to be too long, and calculated to diminish the interest of the public in the Society, and after a short trial, the plan of monthly meetings was reverted to with occasional recess during the months of September and October. In 1818 some energetic members thought formal monthly meetings not sufficient for unrestrained friendly communications and conversation on literary and scientific subjects, it was thereupon resolved (April 2 1828):—

I That the apartments should be kept open for private meetings at 7-30 P.M. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.

II That the meetings shall be open to every member that chooses to attend and to every visitor whom he may wish to introduce.

III That none of the official business of the Society shall be transacted at these meetings, and none of the officers of the Society shall attend, except in a private capacity.

IV That the general attention of the Society at these meetings shall be confined to the promotion of those studies and enquiries which were originally contemplated in the institution of the Asiatic Society.

There is no record to show how these private meetings were attended, and when they were abandoned.

The day of the meeting was originally Thursday. When monthly meetings were resolved upon, the first Wednesday of every month was thought the most convenient, and it remains unchanged to this day. At the close of the last century, the time for dinner among Englishmen was early, and 7 P.M. was found a fit time for meetings, as

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for July 2, 1800



affording a means of recreation to men of literary habits after their meals ; but changes in the social rules of the European community early in this century rendered 8, and subsequently 9, P M as the most convenient hour for the meetings of the Society. Under the rules now in force a recess is observed during the months of September and October

The business at the annual meeting in the time of Sir William Jones was limited to the reading of the annual address. After his death such addresses were not forthcoming, and no annual meeting was held ; the office-bearers were elected, since 1796, at the ordinary December meeting. In 1828 it was resolved, that the anniversary of the Society should be celebrated by an annual dinner, but it was not acted up to in subsequent years. In 1833, Mr. James Prinsep introduced, for the first time, the practice of submitting a brief annual report in January, Mr. Torrens discontinued it in 1841, but his successors revived the practice in 1847, and the rules of the Society now render it imperative. The Code of 1869 provided for an annual address from the Chair, and some very interesting addresses were delivered by Sir Joseph Fayrer, Sir John Phear, Mr. Oldham and Mr. Medlicott ; but the practice of delivering such addresses has of late been dropped

During the presidency of Sir William Jones, no necessity was felt for a house for the Society

House

The Grand Jury Room of the late Supreme Court was always accessible for the meetings of the Society, and there being no office, no effects, and no establishment, no separate accommodation was wanted. On the demise of the founder, the case became different. The Court-house was not always so readily available ; books, papers, records, and specimens of various kinds had accumulated, and they required a store-room, and a natural desire

to secure permanency for these suggested the necessity of a local habitation. It was accordingly resolved<sup>1</sup> that an application should be made to Government for the grant of a free site for a house, and the members should pay a quarterly contribution of one gold mohur each and an entrance-fee of two gold mohurs, which, accumulating for a few years, would yield a sufficient sum to cover the expense of building a house. There is no record to show what reply was given by Government to this application. A second application was made, on July 4, 1801, for a spot of land at the corner of Park Street, which had before been in the possession of a Riding School, but had subsequently reverted to Government, and the Government granted it with the exception of a small portion on the western side, which was "required by the Magistrate of Calcutta for the establishment of a Police Thannah and a Fire Engine." On the remodelling of the Calcutta Police in 1819, the Police-station at this spot was abolished, and, on the application of the Society, the spot was also given to it, free of all rent, for so long as the Society would be in existence. By a subsequent release, dated March 3, 1876, the Government has given the land free of all conditions. The pottali for the land is dated April 7, 1852, and covers an area of a little over three bigahs and a half.

In 1805, when the order of Government granting the land was received, the Society had accumulated a sufficient sum to be in a position to undertake the building of a house. Captain Lock, of the Bengal Engineers, designed a plan, which, after some modifications, was made over to one Jean Jacques Pichon, a Frenchman, settled as a builder in Calcutta, to erect the building. The contract with

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for December 1, 1796

the builder bears date February 1, 1806, and the cost settled was Rs. 24,000. It appears from subsequent Proceedings (April 6, 1808), that the contract amount had to be raised to Rs. 30,000. Extensive additions and alterations have since been made at a heavy cost. The Society took possession of the house at the beginning of 1808.

Although built at the cost, and for the exclusive use, of the Society, the house has been always accessible to the public for literary and scientific lectures. In 1822, the use of the meeting-room was permitted to the Serampore Missionaries for a course of lectures on phrenology, and the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta held their meetings and had their office and library in the house for upwards of thirty years.

One of the objects for which the house was built was to provide accommodation for a Library and a Museum. From soon after the foundation of the Society, books, papers, manuscripts, drawings, copperplates and other articles were, from time to time, presented to the Society, and they had to be kept, owing to want of a better place for their preservation, in the private dwelling-house of the Secretary for the time being; and as the exigencies of European official life in this country led to frequent changes, the risk of loss was serious. The new house at once removed this difficulty. The books that had been received up to the time formed the nucleus of a Library, and funds were sanctioned every year, and also on special occasions, for the purchase of new books. Mr H. T. Colebrooke was also appointed as agent in London to select and purchase books for the Society (October 1, 1817). Exchanges of publications were also made with leading European Societies, and of duplicates in the Library with private individuals, and members returning from the

country sometimes presented selections from their private collections. A small but very valuable collection of works on art was given by Mr Home, who was for several years a leading member of the Society, and a much larger one of historical and other works relating to India was got from Government on the abolition of the old College of Fort William as an educational institution, duplicates and works of general interest being given to the Calcutta Public Library. A very valuable collection of manuscripts, being diverse occasional papers and essays, and ten volumes of drawings of antiquarian and archæological subjects, belonging to Colonel Mackenzie, for a long time Surveyor-General of India, were received in December 1822. A set of abstract translations of the Purānas, prepared by native scholars under the superintendence of Dr Wilson, and several translations from Persian works, have also come to the possession of the Society. A collection of some illustrated works on Botany was received from Dr. N. Wallich in June 1817, but it was subsequently sent to the Hon'ble East India Company's Botanical Gardens, at Sibpur, near Calcutta.

To facilitate the use of the Library by members a set of rules was framed in January 1820. A catalogue of the whole of the Society's library was published in 1833. It shows a total of about a thousand volumes. After the accession of the College of Fort William collection, a second catalogue of the European books was prepared by the late Dr. E. Roer, and that shows a total of 4,315 volumes. A third catalogue was prepared in 1856 by the writer of this Review, and that brought up the total to upwards of 7,000 volumes. Accessions to the Library have since been very numerous and valuable, comprising besides sets, more or less complete, of the Transactions of all the leading European and American learned bodies, nearly all standard

works of reference in science and oriental literature. The total, it is estimated, will exceed 20,000 volumes. Much inconvenience is felt by members from want of a good catalogue of this extensive and valuable collection—perhaps the richest in India. This, however, it is expected, will soon be supplied. There is now in the press an alphabetical catalogue carefully prepared under the superintendence of H. B. Medlicott, Esq. F R S. and it is expected to be completed before the close of the current year.

The early history of the Oriental Library is very much the same as that of the European one.

Library  
Oriental Depart-  
ment

The Society depended mainly on casual gifts from members, and they were not numerous. The first accession of any importance was a gift from the Semugapatam Prize Committee (February 3, 1808). It included a selection from the Library taken in *loot* from the palace of Tipu Sultan. There were among them many old and rare works, including a great number of beautifully illuminated manuscripts of the Quran, and of that part of it called *Pansurah*. An exceedingly well written old text of the *Gulistán*, said to be the first copy from the original manuscript of the author, and a codex of the *Pádshánámáh* bearing an autograph of the Emperor Shah Jehan, were among them. Presentations were also received, on diverse occasions, from the late College of Fort William and the General Committee of Public Instruction, of books published under their superintendence and from other sources. The total, however, did not, in 1835, exceed a thousand volumes. On the abolition of the College of Fort William, the whole of its Sanskrit, Arabian, Persian, and Urdu works, mostly in manuscript, collected at great expense and trouble under the superintendence of Gladwin, Carey, Gilechrist, and other distinguished oriental scholars were placed under the custody of the Society.

with a promise that they would, on the sanction of the Honble Court of Directors being obtained, be given to the Society, subject only to two conditions, namely,—safe and careful preservation—and unrestricted accessibility to the public at all reasonable hours. Pending the receipt of the sanction, the Government defrayed the cost of the establishment, amounting to Rs 78 per mensem. The sanction was obtained in 1846, when the monthly grant was stopped, and the books and manuscripts became the property of the Society—subject only to the two conditions aforesaid.

When the manuscripts came to the possession of the Society it was all but certain that they would ultimately be its property, and in anticipation of the sanction of the Court of Directors Mr Prinsep, then Secretary, caused catalogues to be prepared and printed not only of the new accessions but of all the manuscripts owned by the Society. The Persian catalogue bears date 1837, and contains a total of 2712 names, out of which 1013 are Arabic, 1418 Persian and 311 Urdu,—a few of these being printed books. The Sanskrit catalogue was issued in 1838 and it includes besides Sanskrit a few Māgadhī, Bengālī, Hindi, Chhattī, Tāhūrī and Mahārāṭhī names. The total is in round numbers, 1800. Annexed to this catalogue are lists of Sanskrit works then owned by the Sanskrit Colleges of Calcutta and Benares. These lists were very useful at the time, as shewing the extent of Sanskrit literature then known to exist. The catalogues were prepared by Mulvies and Pandits in the Indian style, and are not very convenient for reference now. They abound, too, in mistakes, and have become obsolete from the circumstance of the Library having been greatly extended since 1838. The accessions in the Persian Department have not been very numerous, in all 167, but several valuable codices

have been obtained. The losses in this department have, however, been greater than the accession. The Sanskrit Library has been nearly doubled ; while the losses, though serious, do not exceed 250 codices. The want of a revised catalogue has, therefore, been much felt, and an attempt was sometime ago made to compile a *catalogue raisonné* of the Sanskrit works. It was then expected that the then Librarian of the Society would be able, with the assistance of a Pandit, to get the needful done. But on his retirement from the Society soon after, the work fell into abeyance. The writer of this Review, thereupon, undertook to finish what was then in the press, and brought out, in 1877, a royal octavo volume of 228 pages, containing descriptive accounts of all the manuscripts on Sanskrit grammar that were available in the Library. It comprised also a tabular statement of all the works of that class which had been met with in India. Other occupations did not, however, permit the editor to carry on the undertaking, and taking into consideration the immense time and labour necessary for such an elaborate work, it had to be finally abandoned. Dr Hoernle has now in the press a nominal catalogue, which, it is believed, will be completed in a short time.

Besides these there are now in the custody of the Society 2,507 Sanskrit manuscripts, mostly new to the collection aforementioned, belonging to the Government of India, and some of great age and value. The ultimate destination of these has not yet been determined upon, but it is expected that they will be so kept by Government as to be always available to Indian and Anglo-Indian scholars.

In addition to the above, the Society possesses a rare collection of Tibetan xylographs, including one complete, and another somewhat defective, set of the *Khahgyun* and the *Stungyur* texts of the Buddhist Scriptures. For

the complete set the Society is indebted to Mr. B H Hodgson, by whose liberality and earnest efforts, its Library and Museum have been so vastly enriched. The second copy was brought down by M Csoma de Koros. Of these voluminous collections there exists no other copy in India, and only two in Europe, both sent by Mr Hodgson. To that gentleman the Society also owes its thanks for a very large and exceedingly valuable collection of Sanskrit Buddhist manuscripts, of which an analytical catalogue, prepared by the writer of this Review, has lately been published by the Society.

The Society has also, in its Library, upwards of 350 Chinese xylographs, of which there is, in manuscript, a descriptive catalogue prepared by Mr Alabaster, the author of a Life of Buddha, published under the name of "The Wheel of the Law." There are, likewise, palm-leaf manuscripts of Burmese, Siamese, Javanese, and Cingalese works, to the extent of about 125 bundles, of which, however, there is no inventory of any kind.

It has not been possible to count, for the purposes of this Summary of the Library Review, all the books and manuscripts contained in the Library, but partly from certain recent accounts and partly from memoranda prepared four years ago, it appears that the Society now owns, or has in custody, of—

English Books and Manuscripts . . .	19,842 Vols
Arabic ditto	1,161 „
Persian ditto	1,506 „
Urdu ditto . . .	300 „
Sanskrit ditto . . .	3,378 „
Ditto Manuscripts (Govt property)	2,507 „
Tibetan Xylographs	256 „
Chinese ditto	350 „
Burmese, Siamese, &c , ditto, manuscripts on palm leaves	125
Total	<hr/> 29 425



For a colonial Library such a collection of nearly 30,000 volumes, of which upwards of 8,000 are in manuscript, is, it is believed, unrivalled, and the members may well congratulate themselves on their work, bearing in mind that the bulk of it has been got up by private enterprise without any pecuniary help from Government. The work done is highly creditable. Had the Society done nothing else in the course of its career of a hundred years, this collection would suffice to secure to it the thanks of future generations.

Inscriptions and coins are closely related to books; they differ only in the material in which they are preserved, but are fully as valuable as written history, and at times much more so, being far more authentic. Their decipherment has engaged the attention of the Society from a very early date, and some of the most brilliant discoveries in Indian history have been thereby effected. Records of this description are not plentiful; many exist on scraps of rocks and on ancient buildings or sculpture; others occur on stones not easily removable, while records on copperplates are title-deeds which their owners do not part with, and coins are intrinsically so valuable that they are not readily to be had. The members of the Society have, however, been assiduous in their endeavours to obtain them either in original or in facsimile, and a great number has been collected.

Of inscriptions the Society had at one time upwards of a hundred. On the removal, however, of the Society's collection of antiquities from its premises to the Indian Museum, it was deemed expedient to make over all inscribed stones to the Museum, leaving behind in the Library only the records—mostly land grants—on copperplates.

Coins

Coins in gold and silver, when they cease to be current, are soon melted down, and in India, where the practice of wearing ornaments of precious metals is so universally prevalent, the cause of their destruction is constantly at work, while copper coins are not much cared for, and their material is subject to rapid deterioration by the influence of the climate. It is not remarkable, therefore, that the Society was never very rich in this description of relics. Many were exhibited at the meetings, and many more described in the Transactions of the Society, but few were given to it. Nevertheless, from time to time, a few coins were presented to it by various benefactors; and after the death of Colonel Mackenzie, duplicates of such coins as existed in any number in his very large collection, were received through the liberality of the Government of Bengal. These made up the Society's collection of coins in 1832, when they were noticed by Professor H. H. Wilson in the Asiatic Researches.

"Subsequently a great many coins were received at different times; and an imperfect inventory of the collection was published by Dr. Roer in the Proceedings of 1843.

"The cabinet, as described by Roer, consisted at that time of 297 Roman coins, from Augustus down to the destruction of the Occidental Empire, mostly copper, and only a very few rare ones, of Greek coins there were 16; and of Bactrian, Indo-Scythian, Sassanian and Gupta coins only 116. There were at the time, however, two or three bags full of copper coins, which had not been described. A little later in the same year, it received a considerable addition of Norwegian coins.

"In the following year, 1844, it suffered a great loss, all the more intrinsically valuable specimens being stolen. A description of the Cabinet in this despoiled state, to

which, however, a few more coins had been added in the meanwhile, was given by Mr. Freeling in the Proceedings for 1857. In order to retrieve the loss, the Society determined to purchase the well-known and magnificent collection of Colonel Stacy, which had been offered to it for sale at the reduced sum of Rs 4,000. in November 1856. A subscription was opened by the Council among the members, the Society itself contributing Rs 1,200 towards the purchase: and early in 1859, this valuable collection was successfully secured. A priced catalogue of it had already been published by Mr. E. Thomas in the Journal of the preceding year, 1858.

“ Since then many additions have been made from year to year, some by presentations, but mostly by purchase. A catalogue of the Cabinet in its present state is in course of preparation. It is particularly rich in Delhi Patháns and Bengal Patháns, also in the later Bactrians Indo-Seythians, Guptas, and the various sorts of ancient Hindu and Buddhist coins. It might be more complete in the Delhi Moghals; but it is most defective in the provincial Muhammadan coinages of Malwá, Guzarát, Jaunpur, &c., also in some of the more ancient classes, as the Sauráshtrian and Sassanian coins. A small collection of Roman coins in gold was obtained from General Cubbon some years ago. They are of peculiar interest as coming from a trove discovered in the Madras Presidency. Among the copper, lead, and inferior coins generally there are a very large number of duplicates. On the other hand, there are also in the Society's collection a few coins which are unique, and a not inconsiderable number which are more or less rare.”

The Society has, moreover, a small but very valuable collection of oilpaintings and some busts.  
 Pictures and Busts the latter memorials of the many great



time, and it was not until some time after the completion of the house that measures were taken to carry out the object. On February 2, 1814, Dr N Wallich wrote a letter to the Society strongly advocating the formation of a Museum, and offering at the same time not only duplicates from his own rich collection to form a nucleus for it, but his own services to look after it, and in bringing the letter before the Society, the Committee of Papers submitted the following notes, which, though long, are worth quoting to show clearly what it was that the Society undertook:

"A collection of the substances which are the objects of science and of those reliques which illustrate ancient times and manners, has always been one of the first steps taken by Societies instituted for the dissemination of specific or universal knowledge. Such a collection was one of the first objects also of the Asiatic Society, and any person engaged in the study of the history and language of this country, or in the investigation of its natural productions, must have had frequent cause for regretting that such a purpose should have been hitherto so very incompletely carried into effect. No public repository yet exists to which the naturalist or scholar can refer, and the only sources of information, beyond verbal and often inaccurate description, have been found in the accidental accumulations of individuals, always of difficult access, indiscriminate selection, temporary duration, and little utility.

"The Asiatic Society is now called upon to adopt active measures for remedying this deficiency, and collecting, from the abundant matter which India offers, a Museum that shall be serviceable to history and science. In the former of these departments the Society is already in possession of several valuable articles and there can be no doubt that enquiry and exertion, and the assurance of their being properly bestowed, would soon add considerably to the number. There are, however, many things of extremely easy attainment, that would afford much useful illustration, and the student of the original languages and compositions would be frequently extricated from perplexity and doubt by having it in his power to refer to specimens of various Eastern implements and instruments in daily and domestic use amongst the natives of these regions.

"It is, however, in the departments of science that a Museum in this country would be found most specially serviceable, and the facility of its accumulation is proportionable to the extent of its utility. In Natural History, Botany, Anatomy, Chemistry, Mineralogy and other branches, a collection would accumulate rapidly if once commenced, and from the first moment of its accumulation would furnish additional matter to the stock of knowledge. Many objects with which we are exceedingly familiar in this country are new or imperfectly known to general science, and a vast variety of articles may be derived from sources hourly acceptable, each of which would contribute some interesting supply to the extensive results of western enquiry.

• "The importance of the measure is, however, so obvious, that it must be unnecessary to urge it further, and it only remains to consider the means by which it can be effected. The Society possesses accommodation fit for the purpose, and the expense of adapting these to the reception of contributions could not be any amount. The present establishment might perhaps be sufficient to take charge of it, at least for some time, and at any rate no great addition could be requisite. The principal difficulty lies in the selection of a person willing and able to devote some time and trouble to procuring and arranging the materials of which such a Museum should consist, and the removal of this difficulty is the chief inducement at present for the Society to take the subject into serious consideration.

"Dr Wallich offers, if the Society should determine to place the collection under his superintendence, to contribute to it the results of his own enquiries, to appropriate to it such further contributions as come within his reach, and to devote all the attention in his power to the arrangement and conservation of the whole."

After a careful consideration of the details submitted by the Committee of Papers, the Society came to the following resolutions :—

"Resolved accordingly that the Asiatic Society determine upon forming a Museum for the reception of all articles that may tend to illustrate oriental manners and history, or to elucidate the peculiarities of art or nature in the East

' That this intention be made known to the public, and that contributions be solicited of the undermentioned nature.—

' Inscriptions on stone or brass.

"Ancient monuments, Muhammadan or Hindu.

"Figures of the Hindu deities

"Ancient coins.

"Ancient manuscripts.

"Instruments of war peculiar to the East.

"Instruments of music.

"The vessels used in religious ceremonies.

"Implements of native art and manufacture, &c., &c.

"Animals peculiar to India, dried or preserved

"Skeletal or particular bones of animals peculiar to India

"Birds peculiar to India, stuffed or preserved.

"Dried plants, fruits, &c.

"Mineral or vegetable preparation peculiar to Eastern pharmacy.

"Ores of Metals.

"Native alloys of metals.

"Minerals of every description, &c., &c.

"That the names of persons contributing to the Museum or Library of the Society be hereafter published at the end of each volume of the Asiatic Researches.

"That the Hall on the groundfloor be fitted up for the reception of the articles that may be procured.

"That the plan and expense of so doing be regulated by the Committee of Papers and Secretary and the person under whose superintendence the Museum may be placed.

"That the expense which may be incurred in preparing materials that may be furnished in a state unfit for preservation be defrayed by the Society within a certain and fixed extent.

"That the thanks of the Society be given to Dr. Wallich for the tender of his services.

"That the services of Dr Wallich be accepted, and that he be in consequence appointed Superintendent of the Oriental Museum of the Asiatic Society "

The Museum thus formed thrived rapidly. Contributions were received under all the heads noticed, and grants were made freely for their preservation. All coins, copper-plates, sculptures, inscriptions on stone, implements and miscellaneous articles received were placed in charge of

the Librarian, while geological and zoological specimens were classified, arranged, and preserved under the superintendence of Dr Wallich, who was appointed their curator, all donations being duly announced in the pages of the Society's Transactions.

The archæotectonic and miscellaneous collection was greatly enriched by contributions from Colonel Stuart, Dr. Tytler, General Mackenzie, Mr B. H. Hodgson, Captain Dillon, Bábu Rámacomal Sen and others. A partial inventory of it was prepared by Dr Roer in 1843, and a complete catalogue was compiled by the writer of this Review in 1847, and published in 1849.

The Natural History Museum remained in charge of Dr Wallich for several years. On his resignation the Society found it necessary to employ one Mr Gibbon as Superintendent on Rs 50 per mensem<sup>1</sup>. The Museum, however, did not, and could not, under the circumstances, get on satisfactorily. What was wanted was a competent knowledge of Zoology and Geology, and that could not be secured for the remuneration offered. The Society had, therefore, to revert to gratuitous aid from amateurs in the ranks of the medical service of the East India Company. The new impulse given to the work of the Society by the appointment of the Physical Committee in 1828, led to the employment of a paid Superintendent on Rs 150 per mensem, and one Mr. Hichins was selected for the post (June 17, 1828). His successor, three years after, was appointed on Rs 200 per month.

The budget of 1836 showed that there were no means available for the payment of a Curator's salary. As it was, however, not desirable to dispense with the services of so

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, August 1817





to save it from impending ruin or to enable it to support its expenses on the same scale of efficiency as heretofore. On the contrary, the Society never had a more flourishing list of contributing members, nor was it ever more actively engaged on the multiplied objects of its attention. Indeed, it would be difficult to mention any department in which its duties have not materially increased within the last few years”<sup>1</sup> He then went on to say :—

“ The Asiatic Society, or it may be allowable to say the Metropolis of British India, has had the germs of a national Museum as it were planted in its bosom. As at *Paris* a new era was opened in the history of its great museum, the *Jardin des Plantes*, through the discoveries of extinct and wondrous animal forms exhumed from the rocks on which the town was built, and which required all the adjuncts of comparative anatomy for their investigation even by the master hand of the great *CUVIER*; so in *Calcutta* through the munificence of a few individuals and development of fossil deposits in various parts of India hitherto unsuspected, we have become possessed of the basis of a grand collection, and we have been driven to seek recent specimens to elucidate them. Our desire has been warmly seconded by all who have enjoyed the opportunity of contributing; from *China*, from *New South Wales*, from the *Cape*, and from every quarter of the Honorable Company’s possessions, specimens of natural history, of mineralogy and geology, have flowed in faster than they could be accommodated, and the too little attention they have received has alone prevented similar presentations from being much more numerous, for it is but reasonable to suppose that, of the stores continually despatched to England or the Continent, the Society would have received a larger share had it done proper honor to what it has received.

“ In May 1835, the Society resolved to try the experiment of appointing salaried officers<sup>2</sup> to the charge of its Museum. For two years economy in other departments has enabled it to maintain this

<sup>1</sup> Journal, Vol VI, p 493

<sup>2</sup> Incorrect.

system, and the good effects of the measure are visible to all who visit the rooms. Yet, not being able to purchase more than a small portion of the time of a competent naturalist, the benefit has been comparatively limited, and now at the very commencement of the experiment, the state of the Society's funds will compel it to withhold further support from its incipient museum, unless some fresh source of income be provided.

“ These then are the motives that have persuaded the Society of the propriety of an appeal to the Ruling Power:—not to contribute to the ordinary wants and engagements of the institution, but to convert that institution into a public and national concern by entrusting it with the foundation and superintendence of what has yet to be formed, for the instruction of our native fellow subjects, as much as for the furtherance of science,—a public depository of the products of nature in India and the surrounding countries properly preserved, properly arranged, and properly applied.

“ To effect such an object it is indispensable that the services of a professional naturalist of high attainments should be engaged, and that he should have at his command the means of working effectually, and of devoting his whole time to the employment.”

authorities, rather than by the Local Government. In the first place, the Honorable Court of Directors are themselves at considerable expense in keeping up a museum and library at the India House, and though his Lordship in Council concurs with you in thinking that such institutions in Europe, however perfect, do not supersede the necessity of providing similar in India likewise,—with reference especially to the spirit of literary inquiry and scientific research which it is desired to excite and encourage amongst the native youths of India; still the fact that the Honorable Court have a separate institution of their own, points to the propriety of making them the judges of its sufficiency or the contrary for Indian purposes. Moreover, were the Government of India to sanction a specific annual grant for a museum and library in Calcutta under the management of your Society, such a grant would reasonably be made a precedent for similar applications from learned Societies at other Presidencies, and his Lordship in Council is not prepared to decide without a reference to England upon the relative claims of such Societies with reference to the circumstances of the institutions themselves and of the Presidencies and places where they may be established ” (June 1837 )

On the receipt of this, a second petition was submitted, from which the following is an extract :—

“The Society feel that they have every reason to be highly flattered with the condescension and consideration extended to their address by the members of Government, and although a reference to the Honorable the Court of Directors has been deemed indispensable before finally determining on the adoption of the Society’s proposition for the formation of a national museum at the cost of the state, still they entertain the most sanguine assurance of a favorable issue under the encouragement and recommendation with which His Lordship in Council has been pleased to promise that the reference home shall be accompanied

“On the strength of this confident expectation a very full meeting of the Society, held on the 5th instant, came to the resolution that it would be unadvisable at such a juncture to break up the establishment, and abandon the incipient Museum upon which

they had for two years devoted so considerable a portion of their income, and thus perhaps have to recommence their collection a year hence, should the Honorable Court acquiesce in the proposed measure.

"It was consequently resolved that a second respectful application should be submitted to the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council in immediate connection with their former address to inquire:—

"Whether, in order to maintain the Society's Museum in its present state of efficiency, pending the reference on the subject of its extension and conversion into a public institution, the Government would be disposed to sanction a monthly grant of 200 rupees, the actual sum which is now obliged to be withdrawn from this object on account of other calls on the Society's funds."<sup>1</sup>

This prayer was at once granted, and Dr. Pearson was appointed Curator. He was succeeded by Dr. McLelland. The reply of the Court of Directors came in their Despatch No 17, of September 18, 1839. The Court fully recognized the claims of the Society, and, adverting to the Society's immediate permanent want of a qualified person to preserve its collections, remarked, that they "would not object to the Government allowing the Society a monthly sum of 200 or 250 rupees a month as salary to a Curator, with a further sum of 50 rupees a month for the cost of preparing specimens and maintaining the collection in order." They went further, and said: "We shall not object to your granting to the Society funds for special purchases, as occasions arise, as far as may be compatible with a due regard to public economy. On all such occasions, you will forward to our Museum a selection from the articles which may have been so procured"<sup>2</sup> The only condition attached to this was, that "the articles to be purchased should not be of a perishable nature."

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings July 1837

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, November 1839

The question now arose as to whether a competent Curator should be brought out from Europe, or one appointed in India. Opinion was very much divided, particularly as the officer then in charge of the Museum, Dr. McLelland, was thoroughly well-qualified for the office. That gentleman, however, did not agree to the terms proposed of two hours' daily attendance at the Museum, and a monthly report of progress. It was resolved, therefore, to write to Dr. Wilson, then the London Agent of the Society, to select a fit person. The person selected was Mr. Edward Blyth, who took charge of his office in September, 1841.

It was generally expected that the Curator sent out from England would be able to take scientific charge of the whole of the Museum; but this could not be done. Thoroughly competent as Mr. Blyth was as a naturalist, he had not studied geology to such an extent as to be fit to be a scientific curator of that department. In his letter to the Secretary, dated September 22, 1841, he himself said: "It is in the Mineral department, unfortunately, that I am at present less qualified, by previous study, to devote my immediate and first labours advantageously for the Society; but with the opportunities for study which are now before me, and with the liberal encouragement and support I may reckon upon receiving, I do not fear but that I shall soon render myself competent to discharge that portion of my duty which relates to the efficient management of the Museum of Economic Geology, this being a subject in which I feel the liveliest interest, and with the high importance of which I am deeply and thoroughly impressed"<sup>1</sup> This difficulty was, however, soon overcome. The satisfactory working of the coal mines at Rániganj, and the reports

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<sup>1</sup> Journal, Vol. XL, pp 756.







ment to preserve it than what the Society could provide. Taking these circumstances into mature consideration a resolution was adopted to the effect, that "the Council enter into a communication with the Government on the subject of the foundation at Calcutta of an Imperial Museum, to which the whole of the Society's collections, except the library, may be transferred, provided the locality, the general arrangement, and management be declared, on reference to the Society at large, to be perfectly satisfactory to its members."<sup>1</sup> The Mutiny of the native troops in the N. W. Provinces, however, soon after followed, and the matter was consequently left in abeyance. In October 1858, the question was revived, and a representation was submitted to Government, giving in detail the views of the Society on the subject of the proposed museum; but it failed in its object. The Government, while recognizing it as "its duty to establish in the metropolis an imperial museum for the collection and exposition of specimens of natural history in all its branches, and of other objects of interest—physical, economical and historical"—declined to entertain the project on financial grounds. At the same time it renewed its offer regarding the geological and palæontological collections. The Society, thereupon, submitted a memorial to the Secretary of State, and, while awaiting a reply to this, applied for an extra grant from the Government of Rs. 200 per mensem, which, though at the time declined,<sup>2</sup> was, on a renewal of the application two years after, sanctioned.

Adverting to previous correspondence, the Government, in May 1862, announced that, "in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, the time had arrived when the

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, May 6, 1837.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, April and June 1859

foundation of a public museum in Calcutta, which had been generally accepted as a duty of the Government, may be taken into consideration with regard to its practical realization," and then gave a sketch of the terms on which the Society's collections may be transferred to it<sup>1</sup>. Negotiations now followed, which were protracted till the middle of 1865, when the following conditions were finally settled, viz :—

1. That, in consideration of the Society's making over its zoological, geological, and archaeological collections to a public museum to be established and maintained by Government, and made over to a Board of Trustees, the Society shall be provided with suitable accommodation in the house which was to be built by Government for the museum, and to have exclusive possession, occupation, and control of the portion so allotted to it.

2 That the Society shall have the right of nominating from its own body one-third of the members of the said Board

3 That it shall retain exclusive possession of its own house

4 That it shall make over to the new museum all archaeological and natural history specimens that it may, in future, receive from its members

A law to this effect was passed in 1866 (Act XVII), and the collections were formally made over to an officer of the Board of Trustees appointed under it. An arrangement was also made to allow the collections to remain in the Society's premises until the proposed building could be completed

The time occupied in building the new house was pro-

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<sup>1</sup> Journal for 1862, p. 320

tracted, and the inconvenience felt by the Society from want of room for the accommodation of its daily expanding Library was great ; and a special house-allowance was granted by Government at the rate of Rs. 400 per mensem from December 1, 1874.

A misunderstanding arose about this time as to the number of rooms the Society should be permitted to occupy in the new house. The officers in charge of the Museum and the Board of Trustees were of opinion that the whole of the accommodation available in the house then in course of erection would be ultimately required for the purposes of their charge, while the members of the Society were reluctant to enter into a house where accommodation was insufficient, and freedom of action cramped. It was felt, too, that the Society's position as an independent body would be injured by its office being 'huddled in the corner of a house occupied by two such large Government establishments as the Geological Survey and the Natural History Museum, and forming as it were a mere annexe to them. The Government, thereupon, referred the matter for settlement to a Committee consisting of Sir Ashley Eden and Dr. Oldham, and, at their recommendation, paid the Society the sum of Rs 1,50,000 as compensation for its claim to accommodation in the Museum building.<sup>1</sup> This arrangement has proved highly beneficial both to the Society and to the Museum.

The exertions made for the establishment of the national museum, and the endowment of it with the richest collection of specimens available in India, are acts for which the Society deserves high credit. To quote the language of an elegant writer in the '*Calcutta Review*.'

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, July 1876

"Had it done nothing else to promote science during the last ten years, it would have entitled itself to the gratitude of posterity for the vigor with which it has prosecuted to success a project fraught with so much public usefulness."

Although Sir William Jones contemplated the publication of a volume of '*Asiatick Miscellany*' every year, no attempt was made to get out such a periodical during the first three years of the Society's career. Most of the papers received during the first year were short and unimportant, and it was not until the middle of the year 1787 that the Society was in a position to go to press with the first volume of its *Transactions*. The Society, however, had no funds of its own at the time, and there was no publisher in Calcutta who could undertake the work at his own responsibility. Ultimately one Mr. Manuel Cantopher, of the Hon'ble East India Company's Printing Office, undertook the job as a private speculation, on the understanding that every Member of the Society would take the book at Rs. 20 a copy. The name then approved for the periodical was "*Asiatick Researches*," instead of what the founder had originally suggested. The first volume appeared in 1788, and the second followed in 1790. The third, the fourth, and the fifth volumes appeared successively in 1793, 1795 and 1797, under the same conditions, the price being reduced to Rs. 16 per copy. The work created quite a sensation in the literary world, and the demand for it was so great, that a pirated edition was brought out in England in 1798. This also sold so rapidly that, within the next five or six years, two other editions were brought out in octavo. The demand for the work was also urgent on the Continent, and a French translation was brought out in

Paris under the title of "*Recherches Asiatiques*." In introducing it to the public, the translator, M. A. Labaume, remarked: "cette collection a inspiré en Angleterre un intérêt, qu'il est à-peu-près impossible de se procurer aujourd'hui un exemplaire de l'édition originale de Calcutta, et qu'il en été fait à Londres trois éditions, qui sont presque entièrement épuisées: cependant elles sont fort incorrectes et remplies de fautes importantes." The translation was a faithful one, and it was enriched by a series of valuable notes on the philological and historical papers by M. Langlès, and on the scientific papers by MM. Cuvier, Delambre, Lamarck and Olivier. The estimation in which the work was then held was thus indicated by the editor: "la plus riche collection de faits qui existe sur l'Inde, ce pays qui attire les premiers regards de ceux qui veulent étudier l'histoire des hommes."

The plan of quarterly contributions from Members had placed the Society in some funds in 1798, when the sixth volume was about to be sent to press; and, looking to the rapid and profitable sale which the first five volumes had met with, the idea was taken up of bringing out the next volume on account of the Society. The proposal was that the same printer should continue to print the work, but at the cost of the Society, which was to reimburse its outlay by charging the Members at Rs. 12 a copy. Volumes VI—XII were published under this arrange-

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<sup>1</sup> The full title of the translation runs thus "*Recherches Asiatiques ou Mémoires de la Société établie au Bengale pour faire des recherches sur l'histoire et les antiquités les arts les sciences, et la littérature de l'Asie, traduits de l'Anglais par M. A. Labaume. Revus et Augmentés de notes pour la partie Orientale, Philologique et Historique par M. Langlès, et pour la partie des Sciences exactes et naturelles, par MM. Cuvier, Delambre, Lamarck, et Olivier. Paris 1805, 1806, 1807, 2 vols*"

ment.<sup>1</sup> This arrangement did not, however, prove advantageous. The cost of printing became heavy, and the sale-proceeds did not fully recoup the outlay. In 1819, it was therefore proposed that the copyright should be sold to a London publisher, and the work brought out at shorter intervals than heretofore. The project, however, fell through. Following the example of European Societies, it was besides resolved that the Researches should be given to members gratis. This increased the responsibility of the Society, and caused greater delay in the publication of its Transactions. In 1829, when the Physical Class was in active work, a resolution was adopted to divide the Researches into two parts, one to be devoted wholly to scientific papers, and the other to literary contributions. This plan was carried out in Vols XVII, XVIII, XIX, and XX, but as the two parts were intended to be bound together, no appreciable advantage was gained by it. On the contrary, the scientific parts did not sell so readily as the literary ones, and many copies of the stock were accordingly made defective. In 1837, Mr James Prinsep brought out a very carefully prepared analytical index of the first eighteen volumes of the Researches. This was a valuable acquisition, as it made the rich treasures of the Society's Transactions readily accessible to students. It did not suffice, however, to revive public interest in the valuable but tardily-issued publication; and soon after the completion of the second part of the twentieth volume of the Researches in 1839, the work was finally abandoned.

The causes which contributed to the stoppage of this

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<sup>1</sup> The dates in which Vols VI to XX were issued, were — Vol VI in 1799, Vol VII, in 1801, Vol VIII, in 1805, Vol IX, in 1807, Vol X, in 1808, Vol XI in 1810, Vol XII, in 1816, Vol XIII, in 1820, Vol XIV, in 1822, Vol XV, in 1825, Vol XVI, in 1828, Vol XVII, in 1832, Vol XVIII, in 1833, Vol XIX, in 1836, and Vol XX, in 1839.



publications, however, were dropped in 1827. A substitute for these was provided in 1829 by Captain J. D. Herbert, Deputy Surveyor-General, in a monthly publication which he started under the name of 'Gleanings in Science.' His primary idea was to confine it to extracts and abstracts from European scientific publications, but original contributions poured in so rapidly that he had to abstain from ~~extracts~~. The Society benefited by this publication so far that a *precis* of its monthly proceedings, which had heretofore been preserved in manuscript, was regularly published. Captain Herbert, however, was appointed Astronomer to His Majesty the King of Oudh in 1830, and Mr. James Prinsep, who had been associated with him in the undertaking, instead of dropping the work, proposed to change its name and call it 'The Journal of the Asiatic Society.' The sanction was given in March 1832. The 'Journal,' however, as it appeared in that month, bore the name of the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.' Its character, too, was entirely changed. Instead of being a scientific periodical, it became essentially literary. It came out also with the additional advantage of free postage, the Government having, in consideration of the Editor publishing Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton's 'Statistics of Bengal' as an appendix to it, conceded that privilege. For the first two years, moreover, it was given to the members free of charge. The frequency and regularity with which this Journal appeared recommended it strongly to the notice of authors, and many papers which would have been otherwise reserved for the pages of the 'Researches' found their way into the 'Journal.'

The Journal, thus established and conducted, superceded the Researches. The privilege of franking <sup>of franking</sup> allowed it was withdrawn



of sufficient interest to be worthy of publication. Another change was also at the time suggested. The complaints which necessitated the division of the *Researches* into two parts in 1829 were now brought to bear upon the *Journal*, and a similar division had to be adopted. Care was at the same time taken to keep these *Parts* so distinct by separate pagination and separate indexes as to form two separate serials, so that the scientific scholar may have the scientific matter without the admixture of what to him appeared as literary lumber, and the orientalist may not have to pay for scientific matter, in which he did not feel himself interested. This arrangement necessitated the employment of three Secretaries, one to look after the general business of the Society and edit the *Proceedings*, one to edit the scientific part of the *Journal*, and a third to take charge of the literary portion.

The most frequent contributors to the *Journal* have been Mr. J. Prinsep, Mr. B. H. Hodgson, Col. P. T. Cautley, Mr. E. Blyth, Mr. H. Piddington, Dr. H. Falconer, Dr. G. G. Spilsbury, Dr. J. Campbell, M. Csoma de Koros, Capt J. D. Cunningham, General A. Cunningham, Col. R. Everest, Major M. Kittoe, Capt. Hutton, Capt. J. W. Sherwill, Col. J. Abbott, Capt J. Newbold, Mr. H. F. Blanford, Mr. W. T. Blanford, Dr. R. Mitra, Mr. Wood-Mason, and Mr. H. Blochmann.

A list of all the contributors with the titles of their contributions will be found in Appendix D.

Counting each part as a volume, the Society has published, either directly or indirectly, and including the index, eighty-four volumes of the *Journal*, and nineteen volumes of the *Proceedings*.

These 103 volumes represent, roughly speaking, a total of closely printed matter, replete with maps and notes of great

interest Their bulk, however, has made their use a matter of great trouble To obviate this the writer of this Review prepared, and published in 1856, an index to the last two volumes of the Asiatic Researches and the first 23 volumes of the Journal; but it was compiled, as stated in its preface, "to render the varied and valuable matter contained in the Transactions of the Society easy of reference to the compiler, and pretended to be nothing more than a resumé of the several-volume indexes to the Journal and Researches, giving, under the usual alphabetical arrangement, nothing more than the subjects, the names of authors, and the local connection of the articles as they appear in their titles." A carefully-arranged analytical index to the entire set is what is now much needed, and it is to be hoped that the beginning of the second century of the Society's career will be signalized by such a compilation

The subject, nature, and value of the papers published in these volumes have been noticed at some length in the subsequent parts of this Review. Suffice it now to observe that they have contributed greatly to enhance the reputation of the Society.

Though himself actively engaged in the translation of oriental works into the English language, Sir William Jones seems to have entertained no idea of the Asiatic Society immediately taking up the task of printing oriental texts. or of translating them; and it was not until several years afterwards that the subject was mooted The first proposition came from the Brethren of the Baptist Mission at Serampore, who offered to undertake, under certain conditions, the publication of a series of Sanskrit works with translations,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings May 15, 1806

and the Society, on the recommendation of the Committee of Papers, agreed to give the Missionaries the aid required, the patronage being limited at the time to a single work to be selected by a Committee appointed for the purpose.<sup>1</sup> The work approved was the *Rámáyana*, and the Society agreed to pay a monthly contribution of Rs. 150, on the distinct understanding that the work would be completed in three years. On October 7, 1807, a second book ~~was~~ selected—the text of the *Sánkhya*,—and a resolution was come to to extend the monthly grant to a period of eighteen months after the expiration of the first three years. The plan, however, fell through, and the contribution was stopped after the publication of the first three volumes of the *Rámáyana*. While these negotiations were proceeding, Sir James Mackintosh, then President of the ‘Literary Society of Bombay,’ submitted a scheme for the regular publication of Sanskrit texts; and on July 2, 1806, the Asiatic Society resolved to “publish, from time to time, as their funds will admit of it, in volumes distinct from the Asiatic Researches, translations of short works in the Sanskrit and other Asiatic languages, or extracts and descriptive accounts of books of greater length in those languages, which may be offered to the Society and appear deserving of publication,” and “that, as this publication may be expected gradually to extend to all Asiatic books of which copies may be deposited in the Library of the Society, and even to all works extant in the learned languages of Asia, the series of volumes be entitled ‘*Bibliotheca Asiatica*,’ or a descriptive catalogue of Asiatic books, with extracts and translations.” No action seems to have been taken in accordance with these resolutions, beyond a few casual grants in aid of oriental publications by private individuals

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, July 3, 1805

On the arrival of M. Csoma de Koros at Almorah, after his long sojourn in Tibet, occasion arose for the Society to obtain from Government a grant for the publication of that distinguished scholar's Tibetan Grammar and Dictionary (1830). The Society at the same time sanctioned an allowance of Rs 50 per mensem to that gentleman, who was then in very straitened circumstances. This allowance was continued to the day of his death in May 1843. Soon after, the Society undertook to print an Annamatican Dictionary, prepared by the Bishop of Isanopolis. Subsequently, grants were obtained for the publication of a Burmese and a Siamese Dictionary, as also for Mr Macnaghten's edition of the *Sháhanámeh* and Mr Brownlow's edition of the Miem manuscript of the *Alif Láulá*, the printing of which the Society undertook to superintend.

It was not, however, until 1835, that any systematic attempt was made for the publication of oriental works. The battle which had long raged between the Anglicists and the Orientalists, in regard to the language best adapted for the education of the people of this country, came to a close with the overthrow of the latter, and the Government adopted a resolution to put a stop to all oriental works which were then in the press on its account, directing the printed sheets 'to be sold' as 'waste paper'. The Society now intervened, and, after protracted discussions at two sittings, came to a resolution to undertake the completion of the abandoned works, and to arrange for the carrying on of similar works in future<sup>1</sup>. The last part of the resolution was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Dr Mill, Mr Hay Macnaghten, Mr Turton, Mr William Grant, Mr J. R. Colvin, and Mr J. Pimsep, with a view

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, April and June, 1835

“to prepare a memorial from the Society to the Court of Directors and the Board of Control, stating that Government here have withdrawn the funds hitherto appropriated to the revival of oriental literature in this country,—and respectfully impressing upon the authorities at home the importance of having some public funds appropriated to this purpose, and requesting them to adopt such means as they think fit for providing a sufficient sum for this important subject”<sup>1</sup> A strong representation was got up, and forwarded under the signature of Sir Edward Ryan, then President of the Society, to the Court of Directors,<sup>2</sup> and an application submitted to Government for the gift of the printed sheets of the abandoned works

The works abandoned were :—(1) The *Mahābhārata*, of which 1,400 pages had been printed, and 2,000 remained unfinished ; (2) the *Rājataranginī*, of which about 200, out of 620, pages had been printed ; (3) the *Naishadha*, of which 200, out of 600, had been printed ; (4) the *Sausruta*, of which about one half had been printed , (5) the *Sartravidyā*, a Sanskrit translation of Hooper’s *Vade Mecum*, of which a few pages only had been printed ; (6) the *Fatāwe Alamgiri*, in six volumes royal quarto, of which only two had been printed ; (7) the *Ināya*, in four volumes quarto, of which the last two had been printed ; (8) the *Khāzānat ul Ilm*, a quarto volume of 620 pages, of which about one-fifth remained to be printed ; (9) the *Jawāme ul Ilm ul Riāzi*, an Arabic translation of Hutton’s ‘ Mathematics,’ a quarto volume of 120 pages ; (10) the *Anis ul Mushannahin*, an Arabic translation of Hooper’s *Vade Mecum* by Dr Tytler ; and (11) a Treatise on Algebra in Arabic The cost of finishing these works was estimated

at Rs. 20,000, and in a Prospectus issued at the time, the patronage of the friends of oriental literature and of the public of India was solicited in aid and support of the important undertaking. The co-operation of European literary associations was also invited. The call was cordially responded to. The President of the Société Asiatique de Paris wrote a sympathizing letter, offering the co-operation of the Society he represented,<sup>1</sup> and the native public most warmly took up the cause. The Pandits and the Maulvies who had been employed by Government to edit the works volunteered their services free of charge, and one gentleman, Nawáb Tanhar Jang, of Clitpur, undertook to defray the entire cost of printing the *Share ul Islám*.

The works, with two exceptions, were completed in four years. The exceptions were the *Sa'iravidyá* and the Treatise on Algebra. The former was, after protracted discussions, abandoned, because it was thought that it would be useless without a profusion of woodcut illustrations, which could not be procured in India at that time; and the latter, because there seemed to be no demand for it.

The petition of the Society to the Court of Directors was at first coldly received; but through the exertions of Professor H. H. Wilson, then the London Agent of the Society, and of the President and other influential members of the Royal Asiatic Society, a grant of Rs. 500 per mensem was ultimately sanctioned. The correspondence on the subject appears in the Proceedings of June 1838. The following extract from the Court's Despatch will show the terms on which the grant was made. Writing to the Government of India, the Court said:—"Although the works formerly published may not always have been

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, November 1836

selected in the most judicious manner, we are still of opinion that the publication of works—and works on instruction in the Eastern languages—should not be abandoned; we therefore authorize you to devote a sum, not exceeding five hundred rupees a month, to the preparation and publication of such works, either through the medium of the Asiatic Society, or any equally appropriate channel, and we shall expect an annual return of the works published, in copies of each book for distribution in this country."

The means thus placed at the disposal of the Society have enabled Mr. James Prinsep to have done an immense deal of good, but his arduous and unremitting labours of several years in India had undermined his health, and he was obliged, immediately after the receipt of the Despatch, to retire from India for a change. It was hoped that the bracing air of his native land and abstinence from work would soon bring on a restoration, but he sank under his illness early in 1840. The estimate he had formed of the probable cost of completing the works was insufficient, and, at the time of his retirement, there was a heavy debt, for the payment of which his successors, Dr. O'Shaughnessy and Mr. Sutherland thought fit to confine their oriental works to the completion of the *Mahábhárata*. Mr. Henry Tomes was elected Secretary in May 1840. He was a distinguished scholar, an elegant writer, and a linguist, but he had neither the energy nor the aptitude to control financial details, and was withal unmindful of the restraints of rules, and under his management the grant was frittered away on works which did not come under the terms of the Court's Despatch. The annual account called for by the Court was not rendered during the whole time of his management to the close of 1846. The only new work published during

his secretaryship was an edition of the *Tārkh-i-Nādsī* in Persian. A contribution of Rs 500 was also paid to cover the cost of printing a selection of small poems in Sanskrit, under the name *Kāvya-sangraha*. When the accounts were cast in the last named year, it was found that no less than Rs 25,000 had been devoted to purposes unconnected with oriental literature.

\* The immediate question before the Council of 1847 was, how to utilize the grant, and a Committee was appointed to devise means to carry out the Court's wishes regarding the publication of the Vedas. The plan approved by the Society was, as suggested in a judicious minute by Mr Laidley (dated December 1847) to start a monthly serial under the name of 'Bibliotheca Indica' and the editorship of a competent scholar, aided by a staff of Pandits. The work was taken in hand at the beginning of 1848. Dr Roer was appointed the chief editor on a salary of Rs. 100 per mensem, and his principal duty was to supply English translations of the works taken in hand. The first work selected was the *Sanhitā* of the *Rīg Veda*, but before four fasciculi of it could be published, news arrived that the Court of Directors had made arrangements with Dr. Max Muller for the publication of that work, together with an English translation by Dr H. H. Wilson, and the Society's project had, therefore, to be abandoned. Dr. Roer then took up the *Upanishads* and some other works.

At the close of 1850, the Council appointed a Sub-Committee to report on the publication, and at their suggestion the post of chief editor was abolished, and rules were framed for the remuneration of editors according to the nature of the work done. The Committee further suggested, "that, whilst it is of the highest importance for



scholars in the Council of the Society have at times caused a slight preponderance on the one side or the other.

The practice now is to divide the grant into two parts, one of which is devoted to Sanskrit, and the other to works in Arabic, Persian and other languages. This apportionment was first brought to the notice of Government in 1868 by Mr. Whitley Stokes, then Legal Member of the Supreme Council, who, while accepting the propriety of it, remarked, that, in view of the vast extent and paramount importance of Sanskrit literature, and the little that has yet been done towards its preservation, the amount devoted to it was very small, and recommended it to be doubled. The Government approved of his suggestion, and the Society now receives an additional allowance of Rs. 250 per mensem exclusively for Sanskrit works.

The total number of Oriental works published by the Society up to date amounts to 140. Of these, one hundred and eleven have been published, or are in course of publication, in the 'Bibliotheca Indica.' The works may be noticed under two heads : 1st, Semitic ; 2nd, Sanskritic. The Semitic series includes, besides some standard law books in Arabic, all the standard works in Persian, on the general history of India, together with a critical edition and an English translation of the *Ain-i-Akbari*, the well-known Gazetteer of Akbar's extensive empire. An imperfect version of this work was published early in this century by Mr Francis Gladwin, but it did not include the most important part of the work—its numerous tabular statements. The translation, moreover, had been long since out of print. The late Mr. Blochmann, therefore, undertook a new and faithful translation, and brought out the first volume in 1873, together with the whole of the text. For rigorous exactitude of rendering, for faithful repre-

sensation of the spirit of the original, and for the richness, variety and profusion of its illustrative and explanatory notes, the book is a model of its kind. No Persian work has as yet had the benefit of so able and so faithful an interpreter. It is deeply to be regretted that the lamented death of its learned and enthusiastic Secretary has deprived the Society not only of his invaluable services, but also of the opportunity of completing the work in the same style.

The Sanskrit series includes the leading works of almost all the departments of Bráhmánic literature. The Vedas are represented by twenty-five different works; the Puráṇas, by three; the philosophical schools, by the text-books of all the six leading systems and several commentaries; the Yotishah, by three, two with translations. The law-books, the rituals of the Vedas, grammar, rhetoric, and other branches have also been represented by important works. Notices of these in some detail will appear in a subsequent part of this Review. It is doubtful if any Society in Europe has, within fifty years, done for any classic literature as much as the Asiatic Society of Bengal has done for Sanskrit literature since 1847. This work alone has given to it the highest claim to the consideration and respect of the people of this country and of oriental scholars in all parts of the world.

Up to date, the Bibliotheca series has come up to a total of 747 fasciculi; of these 280 are Semitic, including English translations of four works in 28 fasciculi. The names of the translations are: 1, *Am-i-Akbari*, 2 *Tabakát-i-Násiri*, 3 *History of the Khalífs*, 4 *Shamshieh*, or the *Logic of the Arabians*. The Sanskrit series takes up 467 fasciculi, including translations of twenty different works in 50 fasciculi. The works in the Semitic series have been edited by Dr. Aloys Sprenger, Captain Nassau

Lees, Hekekyan Bey. Mr. Henry Blochmann, Major Raverty, Captain Jai rett, and the Maulvies of the Calcutta Madrissa. The credit of the Sanskrit series is due to several scholars, of whom—

Dr E Roer	...	...	. edited 33 fasc
„ Fitz-Edward Hall	...	...	. „ 18 „
„ Ballantyne	...	...	„ 5 „
„ E B Cowell	..	..	„ 17 „
Professor Jayanāráyana Tarkapanchānan	.	„	19 „
„ Bharatachandra Suoman	..	„	16 „
„ Mahesachandra Nyáyaratna	.	„	19 „
Pandit Satyavrata Sāmasrami	..	..	„ 44 „
Dr Rājendralāla Mitra	..	.	„ 83 „
„ Hoernle	..	.	„ 12 „

Appendix C supplies a detailed list of all the works published.



Asiatic Society had at its disposal a moderate addition to those funds, in an annual sum of five to six thousand rupees, the execution of the scheme might be immediately commenced, and its accomplishment might be expected at a period not very remote "

The Government received the proposition very favorably, and strongly recommended it to the notice of the Court of Directors ; but the Board of Control declined to make the grant, and the project dropped. Mr. Prinsep, in 1837, revived the idea ; and, in the Sanskrit catalogue of the Society's Library, included, by way of a first instalment, the names of all the works contained in the libraries of the Calcutta and the Benares Sanskrit Colleges. This, however, did not meet the requirements of the case, and, in 1867, Pandit Rádhákissen, of Lahore, urged the adoption of a comprehensive scheme that should bring to light the treasures of Sanskrit lore buried in private libraries in India. The Government of Lord Lawrence took it up warmly, and, acting upon the recommendation of Mr. Whitley Stokes, ordered that each of the several subordinate Governments should organize a scheme not only for the preparation of inventories, on a uniform plan, of all manuscripts that may be met with in private collections, but also for the purchasing or the preparation of transcripts of all valuable or rare manuscripts, promising at the same time special grants for the purchase of rare collections, whenever opportunities would offer for so doing. The Government, at the same time, named Dr. Buhler of Bombay, Dr. Kielhorn of Púna, Mr. Burnell of Madras, and the writer of this Review, as persons who, in its opinion, were fit to be entrusted with the management of the undertaking. The amount sanctioned for Bengal was Rs. 3,000 per annum, and the Asiatic Society was asked to superintend its disbursement.

The form recommended by Government was a tabular one, which did not admit of the contents of the manuscript being given at length. The writer of this Review, when requested to undertake the work, pointed out this defect,<sup>1</sup> and, taking into consideration the fact that a work of this kind could be done only once for all, suggested certain modifications, especially with reference to abstracts of contents. His suggestions were approved both by the Society and the Government, but unfortunately his minute was not circulated to other Governments, and the opportunity for securing uniformity was lost.

The inventories prepared for the Society have been named "Notices of Sanskrit Manuscripts," and eighteen fasciculi of these have been published during the last twelve years. The descriptions given are full, and the contents of most of the works have been given in such a way as to obviate the necessity of a future more detailed analysis. In this respect it contrasts very favorably with the lists published in Madras, Bombay and the N. W. Provinces. The model selected was the admirable catalogue of the Bodleian collection prepared by Dr. Anstie. A catalogue has also been prepared by the writer of the library of His Highness the Mahá.ájá Bikáni. It extends to 745 pages, and supplies more or less detailed notices of 1 794 manuscripts.

Although Sanskrit manuscripts are not marketable articles, and the sanctity attached to them by the people of this country render them extremely difficult of access, nevertheless, purchases have been made to the extent of 2,507 codices. These are now preserved in the library of the Asiatic Society.

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, May 1869

It has been incidentally noticed (*ante*, p 57), that the Society obtained from 'Government  
Miscellaneous Works contributions in support of the publication of certain oriental works ; nor were its efforts in this respect limited to works of that description. Scientific works taken in hand in India always found ready support from the Society, both by subscriptions from its own funds as well as by intercession with the Government for special grants. In certain cases the Society, likewise, undertook the task of superintending the printing of literary and scientific works for others. As instances, it may not be amiss here to cite the names of Colonel Dalton's magnificent work on the Ethnology of Bengal, Colonel Mainwaring's Lepcha Grammar and Dictionary, Mr Beal's Biographical Dictionary, and Mr Grierson's Grammar of the Northern Behar dialect. Circumstances also arose from time to time to print works independently of the Journal of the Society. The most important and recent work of this class is Messrs Moore and Hewettson's description of Mr. Atkinson's collection of Indian Lepidoptera, a profusely illustrated quarto volume, which was most welcome to students of Entomology. In 1837, the Society came into possession of the original journals, correspondence, and researches of Messrs Moorcroft and Trebeck's travels beyond the Himalayas, and immediately placed them in the hands of Messrs Allen & Co., the charge of editing being entrusted to Dr Wilson, then its London agent. The whole edition of the work, however, sold off in a short time, and the Society incurred no expense on account of it. Mr. Hodgson's Essay on 'the Coch, Bodo and Dhimal Tribes,' Mr. Laidley's Travels of Fabian, and some other minor works were also published solely, or mainly, at the expense of the Society. A list of these will be found in Appendix C.

It has been already stated that, during the first twelve years of its career, the Society possessed no income of any kind. Such small contingent expenses as were incurred in carrying on its affairs were defrayed by the President, or by the Secretary, or by both. When the rules regarding quarterly subscriptions were adopted in 1796, the great object was to accumulate a sufficient sum for the building of a house, and for sometime afterwards very little was spent for other purposes. It was not until the establishment of its museum and library that the ordinary expenses of the Society became heavy, and the periodical cost of the *Researches*, which subsequently began to be distributed gratis, swallowed up nearly the whole of its income. Moreover, whatever little savings it had, were lost by the failure of Messrs Palmer and Co., who were the Society's agents till 1828. Difficulties, therefore, arose in 1829, when frequent grants had to be sanctioned for the *researches* of the Physical Class and for costly illustrations for the *Transactions*. The cost of the Museum was also steadily on the increase. A very timely relief was about this time received by a donation from the King of Oudh of Rs 20,000, supplemented by another of Rs 5,000 from his Prime Minister. This enabled the Society to pay off its debts, and still leave a considerable sum in the hands of its bankers. Unfortunately, however, the failure, in 1833, of Messrs Mackintosh and Co., who had charge of the money, deprived it entirely of its cash balance. In 1834, one Mr. Bruce, who had been long a member of the Society, left a bequest of £2,000, and the amount was invested in Government Securities, from the interest of which it was expected that the cost of the *Researches* would be easily and regularly defrayed, and that publication would



be independent of the ordinary resources of the Society : but the monthly contributions for the Journal and heavy expenses on account of the oriental publications began soon to trench upon this vested fund. In 1836, its amount had been reduced to Rs. 17,500, and a resolution was adopted to pay out of it Rs. 200 a month for a Curator.<sup>1</sup> This called forth a vigorous protest,<sup>2</sup> and as it may be of use for reference in future, it may be well to copy it here:—

“It appears to us that in a Society constituted as the Asiatic Society of Bengal is, the existence of a fund vested in Government Securities is absolutely necessary for the permanence of the foundation.

“We consider that such funds are intended to be reserved for cases of extreme emergency, and that the interest only of *such funds* should be carried to the current expenses of the Society.

“We also consider that any infringement of a law upon which the Society’s existence may be said to depend, is injurious not only to the Society itself as a body, but to the interests of the members individually : and may be drawn in as a precedent for further encroachments leading to the ultimate dissolution of the Society.

present difficulties of the Society, of retaining the higher appointment

<i>Northern Doab</i>	}	P. F. CAULLY, <i>Capt, Art'y</i>
<i>14th Dec 1836.</i>		H. FALCONER, M.D.
		W. M. DURAND, <i>Lieut, Engrs.</i>
		W. E. BAKER, <i>Lieut, Engrs.</i>
<i>and, Calcutta.</i>	}	ALEXANDER COLVIN, <i>Lieut-Col, Engrs.</i>
<i>26th Jan 1837</i>		JOHN COLVIN "

This led to the stoppage of the Curator's allowance on the following year. But the mischief had already been done, and the lax management of the finances for some years afterwards, and the unnecessarily large establishment entertained, greatly embarrassed the position of the Society, and accumulated a debt, which in 1846 entirely swamped the vested fund. Retrenchments also became urgently necessary. Instead of a European Assistant Secretary on Rs. 200, a Librarian on Rs. 100, an Assistant Librarian on Rs. 40, a Maulvie and a Pandit on Rs. 30 each, and an Accountant on Rs. 60, total Rs. 460, a single native officer as Assistant Secretary and Librarian on Rs. 100 a month was found ample for the requirements of the Society, and the financial affairs of the Society were managed with perfect smoothness for some time after this change. With greatly extended business, it was not possible, however, to establish a vested fund. From 1847 to 1876, the Society lived on its annual income, but saved nothing. In 1858 a resolution was adopted to the effect, that the composition fees received from Life Members should be vested in Government Securities, and only the interest thereof should be devoted to current expenditure. Compositions, however, were few, and the vested fund therefore remained insignificant. The compensation received from Government in 1875 in lieu of the claim the Society had for accommo-

clation in the Indian Museum building, enabled the Society to vest a large sum in Government Securities, and a portion of it is now held as a Permanent Reserve Fund under Rule 67, which runs thus : " Of the Funds of the Society now invested in Government Securities, Rs. 1,20,000 shall be considered as a *Permanent Reserve Fund* for the benefit of the Society, and it shall not be competent to the Council, or to any of the Society's officers, or to any Committee of the Society, to sell or otherwise alienate the said fund or any portion of it without first recommending the sale or alienation in question to the Society, and taking the votes of the general body of Members as provided in Rules 64 and 65, and, further, such sale or alienation shall only be lawful if carried by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the members who have voted. And should any portion of the Permanent Fund be sold or alienated by authority of the members of the Society, the remainder shall be preserved under this rule in the same manner as if the sum were intact " It is to be hoped that this rule will be scrupulously and most faithfully observed, and no occasion will arise in future for dissentients to record a protest similar to the one quoted above.

In a brief history like the present it is not possible to give personal notices of all those whose labors have created and sustained the reputation of the Society. Were it otherwise, still sufficient information cannot now be collected regarding the earlier contributors. To make a selection would be an unpleasant and invidious task. Brief notices of most of the authors of papers have, besides, been given in subsequent parts of this Review. It is, nevertheless, desirable to refer here to a few of the most renowned scholars with whom the fame of the Society is intimately associated.

Their names stand on the beadroll of the Society, and as such are deserving of its highest respect

1. The first and foremost name in this beadroll is that of Sir William Jones, born September 1746, died April 27, 1794. To him the Society owes its foundation and the distinction it attained in the earlier days of its career. No less than 29 papers were contributed by him in the first four volumes of the Asiatic Researches, and his translation of *Mamū* has been a standard text-book of reference for lawyers for a hundred years. He, likewise, translated into English the *Sakuntalā* of Kālidāsa, and the *Gītāgobindā* of Jayadeva. He was a scholar of world-wide renown, and his memory is dearly cherished by all oriental scholars.

2. Sir John Shore, Bart., afterwards Lord Teignmouth, succeeded Sir William Jones on May 26, 1794, and retired to England on May 2, 1797. He contributed only six papers to the Researches, but it was mainly through his exertions that the Society prospered in its infancy. His name is intimately associated with the foundation of the Society, but he is best remembered by the people of this country as the virtual author of the Permanent Settlement of the land-revenue in Bengal.

3. The name of Henry Thomas Colebrooke, born 1765, died March 18, 1837, comes next. He came to India as a writer in the service of the East India Company, and for a long time held the office of a Judge in the Sadar Dewānī Adālat. He was President of the Asiatic Society for ten years, from April 1806 to February 1, 1815, and contributed nineteen papers to the Transactions of the Society. On his retirement from India, he helped the Society as its London agent until the time of his demise. A great mathematician, zealous astronomer, and profound Sanskrit scholar,

he wrote nothing that did not at once command the highest attention from the public, and, notwithstanding the great advance that has been made in oriental researches of late years, his papers are still looked upon as models of their kind. He was the founder of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and contributed several valuable papers to its Transactions.

4. Sir Charles Wilkins, Kt, LL D, born 1750, died 1833, came out to India as a writer in the East India Company's Civil Service, and devoted himself to the study of the Sanskrit language. He was the first Englishman who acquired a thorough mastery of it, and in 1779 published a grammar of that language. He, likewise, translated the *Bhagavadgītā*, which was published in 1785 under the auspices of Mr. Warren Hastings. He was the first also to bring his profound learning to bear upon Sanskrit palæography, and to decipher several inscriptions, which were unintelligible to the Pandits of his time. He was a scholar of unexampled perseverance, and his unemitting labors in the climate of Bengal forced him to retire from the Service at the close of the last century. In England he published a translation of the *Hitopadesa* and several extracts from the *Mahābhārata*. On the arrival in England of a large collection of oriental manuscripts, soon after the capture of Seringapatam, the Court of Directors appointed him the custodian of those treasures. He was thus the first Librarian of the India House Library. On the establishment of the College at Hailebury, in 1805, he was appointed a visitor of that Institution in the Oriental Department, and at about that time the University of Oxford conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor in Civil Law. At a later period King George IV bestowed on him, in recognition of his high literary merits, the honor of

Knighthood,\* accompanying that act of favor with the badge of the Guelphic Order

5 Samuel Davis, Esq., F R S., came out to India as an officer of Engineers in the Bengal Presidency, and accompanied the Embassy to Tibet in 1783, but was soon after admitted to the Civil Service of the East India Company. He joined the Society two months after its foundation, and contributed three papers to its Transactions. He was a mathematician and astronomer, and to him is due the credit of having first identified, by actual observations in the company of Pandits at Benares, the asterisms and many of the stars noticed in Sanskrit works. While employed as District Judge and Governor-General's Agent at Benares, he was deeply engaged in astronomical researches in an observatory which he had erected on the top of his house. Vizier Ali, the deposed Naváb of Oudh, revolted at this time, and attacked him with a large following of rowdies at the top of the staircase to his observatory. He defended himself for a long time with a pike, which now forms the crest of his family coat-of-arms. He became Chairman of the Comt of Directors, and in that capacity wrote the celebrated Fifth Report on the Permanent Settlement. He was subsequently elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London.

6 Colonel Francis Wilford. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Society. He wrote ten elaborate essays on historical subjects, which created quite a sensation in his time. Unfortunately, however, the Pandits on whom he relied for his quotations from Sanskrit works betrayed him, and his speculations, therefore, were subsequently found to be not very valuable.

7. Reuben Burrow, Esq., writer in the service of the East India Company. He was a distinguished mathema-

pages. as also in the subsequent parts of this Review Suffice it to say that his administration was the most brilliant and successful in the annals of the Society.

11. Rev. W. H. Mill, D D. elected 1833. retired in 1842. He came out in the Ecclesiastical Service of the East India Company, and for a long time held the office of Principal of Bishop's College, Sibpur. His contributions to the Journal were not very numerous, but high encomium is due to his patience, perseverance, and learning in deciphering the inscriptions on the Allahabad column in one of the oldest Indian characters. He was a profound Sanskrit scholar, and universally held in high esteem. To mark their sense of veneration for him, the members of the Society have set up a bust to his honor.

12. Brian Houghton Hodgson. Esq, Bengal Civil Service. born 1799, living. He came out to India in 1819, and spent the greater part of his time in the Himalayas, holding for several years the office of Resident at the Court of Khatmandu, Nepal. He utilized to the utmost the very favourable opportunities he had of carrying on his literary and scientific pursuits in a till then untrodden field, and the service he has done to the cause of science is immense. His contributions to the Society amount to a total of 112 papers, besides large donations in exceedingly valuable manuscripts and specimens of Natural History. On his retirement from the Civil Service in 1843. the Society voted him a bust, and his name is intimately associated with the progress of the Society. Those of his collaborateurs who are still living cherish for him the kindest affection and respect.

The details given above, meagre as they are, show  
 Summary that the Asiatic Society has, during its  
 career of a hundred years, fully carried

out the objects of its existence To bring the record of its services to a focus :

1 It has provided for the use of scholars a commodious house, valued at Rs. 1,50,000.

2 It has got up a library, containing thirty thousand volumes, of which upwards of eight thousand are manuscripts

3 It has a collection of ancient coins and medals, valued at ten thousand rupees.

4 It has a small but valuable collection of pictures and memorial busts

5. It got up an Archæological and Ethnological Museum of considerable extent, a Geological Museum rich in meteorites and Indian fossils, and a Zoological Museum, all but complete as regards the Avifauna of India.

6. It has published a total of 354 volumes, including 21 volumes of the Asiatic Researches and Index, 84 volumes of the Journal and Index, 19 volumes of Proceedings, 167 volumes of Oriental works of different kinds, 31 volumes of miscellaneous works relating to India, 14 volumes of catalogues of various kinds, and 18 volumes of 'Notices of Sanskrit Manuscripts'

These are deeds which, for extent, variety, and usefulness, may well claim the consideration of the public. They compare very favorably with the works of other and older Societies in other parts of the earth To the student of science in India they have proved of incalculable service. And it is in view of these the Society this day celebrates its Centenary Jubilee.





## Appendix A.

*Statement showing the number of Members on the rolls of the Society from  
time to time*

At the close of—			Members	At the close of—			Members
1768	.	...	89	1853	.		146
1790	...	..	101	1854		...	145
1792	..	..	110	1855			162
1795		...	123	1856		.	167
1797		.	151	1857	.		147
1799	..		174	1858			133
1802			197	1859	...		180
1805	.		200	1860			242
1807			204	1861			281
1808	..		215	1862	...		311
1810	.	...	216	1863	.		355
1815	.	..	263	1864	...		360
1820	.		252	1865		.	376
1825	...	.	243	1866		.	387
1828		.	285	1867			416
1832		..	267	1868	.		427
1833	...		258	1869			442
1834	..	..	274	1870	.		414
1835	...	..	306	1871		...	446
1838	..	..	126	1872	.		438
1839	...		125	1873		...	358
1843	...	.	126	1874		.	344
1844	.		125	1875	.		345
1845		.	119	1876		..	347
1846	.	...	136	1877			345
1847	..		219	1878			327
1848	.	..	218	1879			329
1849			207	1880	.		356
1850	..	.	142	1881			350
1851	..		130	1882	...	..	337
1852		.	139	1883		..	323



1805

*President—*

As in 1799

*Vice-Presidents—*

J. H. Harington

H. T. Colebrooke

*Secretary—*

W. Hunter

H. Trailand Palmer & Co, *Treasrs*

1807

*President—*

H. T. Colebrooke

*Vice-Presidents—*

J. H. Harington

Dr J. Fleming

*Secretary—*

W. Hunter

H. Trailand Palmer & Co, *Treasrs*

1810

*President—*

As in 1807

*Vice-Presidents—*

As in 1807

*Secretary—*

Dr W. Hunter

Dr J. Leyden, *Depy Secy*Palmer & Co, *Treasurers*

1815

*President—*

Earl of Moira

*Vice-Presidents—*

J. H. Harington

Sir John Royds

Right Rev. T. F. Middleton

*Secretary—*

Dr H. H. Wilson

Major J. Weston

W. L. Gibbons, *Depy Secy*Palmer & Co, *Treasurers*

1820

*President—*

Marquis of Hastings

*Vice-Presidents—*

Right Rev. T. F. Middleton

Sir E. Hyde East, Kt

Major-Genl. T. Hardwicke

W. B. Bayley

*Secretary—*

H. H. Wilson (absent)

Capt. A. Lockett (offg.)

Palmer & Co, *Treasurers*

1822

*President—*

As in 1820

*Vice-Presidents—*

As in 1820

*Secretary—*

H. H. Wilson

Palmer & Co, *Treasurers*

1825

*President—*

Hon. J. H. Harington

*Vice-Presidents—*

W. B. Bayley

Rt. Rev. Reginald Heber

*Secretaries—*

H. H. Wilson

Dr G. Abel, *Phys. Com. Secy*

1828

*President—*

Sir C. E. Grey

*Vice-Presidents—*

Hon. W. B. Bayley

Hon. Sir J. Franks

Hon. Sir E. Ryan

Hon. Sir C. Metcalfe.



*Secretaries—*

J Prinsep  
 Rev Mr Malan  
 Dr W B O'Shaughnessy.  
 Babu Ramcomul Sen

{ From  
 Oct.  
 1838

1839

*President—*

As in 1832

*Vice-Presidents—*

As in 1838

*Secretaries—*

Dr W B O'Shaughnessy  
 J C C Sutherland

1840

*President—*

As in 1832

*Vice-Presidents—*

Hon Sir J P Grant.  
 Col D McLeod  
 Hon H T Prinsep  
 Hon Sir H Seton

*Secretary—*

H W Torrens

1841

*President—*

As in 1832

*Vice-Presidents—*

Hon Sir J P Grant  
 Hon Sir H Seton  
 Hon H T Prinsep  
 Hon W W Bird,

*Secretary—*

H W Torrens

1842

*President—*

Hon H T Prinsep

*Vice-Presidents—*

Hon Sir J P Grant  
 Hon W W Bird  
 Hon Sir H W Seton  
 Rt Rev Lord Bishop

*Secretary—*

As in 1841

1843

*Presidents—*

Hon H T Prinsep  
 Rt Hon W W Bird (from 30th  
 March)

*Vice-Presidents—*

Rt Rev Lord Bishop  
 Sir J P Grant  
 Sir H W Seton  
 H W Torrens

*Secretaries—*

H W Torrens  
 H. Piddington, *Sub-Secy*

1844

*Presidents—*

W W Bird  
 Hon Sir Henry Hardinge (from  
 October)

*Vice-Presidents—*

As in 1843

*Secretaries—*

As in 1843

1845

*President—*

As at close of 1844

*Vice-Presidents—*

Rt Rev Lord Bishop  
 Sir J P Grant  
 Sir H Seton  
 H W Torrens  
 Lt-Col W N Forbes

*Secretaries—*

As in 1844



*Secretaries—*

Capt F C C Hayes

Dr A Sprenger, elected in place of  
Capt Hayes (retired) in MayIn consequence of changes made in  
the organization of the Council, another  
election was held in June with the  
following results —*President—*

As in 1848

*Vice-Presidents—*

Sir H M Elliot

Dr W B O'Shaughnessy

Welby Jackson

*Secretary—*

Dr A Sprenger.

1852

*President—*

As in 1848

*Vice-Presidents—*

Sir H M Elliot

Dr. W B O'Shaughnessy

Welby Jackson,

*Secretaries—*

Dr A Sprenger

A Grote, elected Jt Secy in  
April

H V Bayley

1853

*President—*

As in 1848.

*Vice-Presidents—*

W B Jackson

J R Colvin

Rungopal Ghose

*Secretaries—*

A Grote Genl

Dr A Sprenger, Phil Dept

1854

*President—*

As in 1848

*Vice-Presidents—*

Hon Col J Low

Sir H M Elliot

Rungopal Ghose.

*Secretaries—*

As in 1853

1855

*President—*

As in 1848

*Vice-Presidents—*

Major-Genl Hon J Low

Lt-Col W E Baker

Rungopal Ghose

*Secretaries—*

A Grote

H V Bayley

W S Atkinson

Mr Grote resigned in July H  
V Bayley and others officiated for  
him and in December Mr W S Atkin-  
son was appointed

1856

*President—*

As in 1848

*Vice-Presidents—*

Rungopal Ghose

Dr G G Spilsbury

A Grote

*Secretary—*

W S Atkinson

1857

*President—*

As in 1848

*Vice-Presidents—*

As in 1856



*Secretaries—*

W S Atkinson.

R Mitra

1858

*President—*

As in 1848

*Vice-Presidents—*

Ramgopal Ghose

A. Grote

Lt -Col R Strachey

*Secretaries—*

W. S. Atkinson

E B. Cowell

1859 and 1860

*President—*

A Grote.

*Vice-Presidents—*

Col R Strachey

Dr. T. Thomson

Babu Ramaprasad Roy

*Secretaries—*

As in 1858

1861

*President—*

As in 1859.

*Vice-Presidents—*

Dr T Thompson

Major H L Thuillier.

Babu Rajendralala Mitra

*Secretaries—*

As in 1858.

1862

*President—*

As in 1859.

*Vice-Presidents—*

Lt -Col H L Thuillier

Babu Rajendralala Mitra

T. Oldham

*Secretaries—*

As in 1858

1863

*President—*

Lt.-Col H L Thuillier.

Do, resigned in April

E C Bayley elected President in September.

*Vice-Presidents—*

A Grote

Lt -Col R Strachey.

Babu Rajendralala Mitra.

E C Bayley, in place of Col Strachey in March

*Secretaries—*

W S Atkinson (resigned in Aug)

E B Cowell (resigned in July)

H F Blanford elected Secy in August

1864

*President—*

E C Bayley

*Vice-Presidents—*

Capt W N Lees

Dr T Anderson

Babu Rajendralala Mitra

*Secretaries—*

H F Blanford

W L Heeley

1865

*President—*

A Grote

*Vice-Presidents—*

Capt W N Lees

W. S. Atkinson

Babu Rajendralala Mitra

In July, Babu Jadava Krishna Singh, in place of R Mitra, resigned.

*Secretaries—*

H F Blanford

W L Heeley

In July, on resignation of the two Secretaries, R Mitra and Dr J Anderson came in

Lt-Col J E Gastrell, *Treasurer*

1866

*President—*

E C Bayley

*Vice-Presidents—*

Dr G B Partridge

Jadava Krishna Singh

W L Heeley

*Secretaries—*H F Blanford, *Genl Secy*R Mitra, *Phil Secy*Dr J Anderson, *Nat Hist Secy*Lt-Col J E Gastrell, *Treasurer*

1867

*President—*

Dr J Fayer

*Vice-Presidents—*

Dr S B Partridge

Hon G Campbell

A Grote

*Secretaries—*H. F Blanford, *Genl Secy*R Mitra, *Phil Secy*Dr J Anderson, *Nat Hist Secy*Lt-Col J E Gastrell, *Treasurer*

In December, Dr Colles was elected Nat. Hist Secy in place of Dr Anderson, resigned

1868

*President—*

Dr T Oldham

*Vice-Presidents—*

Hon J B Phear

A Grote

Kumar Harendra Krishna Bahadur

In July, Mr Grote left for England, and Dr J Fayer was elected V P in his stead

*Secretaries—*H F Blanford, *Gen Secy*R Mitra, *Phil Secy*Dr J A P Colles, *Nat Hist Secy*Col J E Gastrell, *Treasurer*

In May, Mr Blanford resigned, and W H Blochmann was appointed in July In May, Dr F Stoliczka was elected Nat Hist Secy in place of Dr Colles, resigned

1869

*President—*

Dr T Oldham

*Vice-Presidents—*

Dr J Fayer, CSI

Hon J B Phear

Kumar Harendra Krishna Bahadur

*Secretaries—*H Blochmann, *Phil Secy*Dr F Stoliczka, *Nat Hist Secy*Col J E Gastrell, *Treasurer*

In Sept, Col Hyde was elected treasurer in place of Col Gastrell, resigned General duties of Secy carried on by both Nat. Hist and Phil Secretaries

1870

*President—*

Hon J B Phear

*Vice-Presidents—*

Dr T Oldham

Dr J Fayer

R Mitra

## Secretaries—

H Blochmann, *Phil Secy*Dr F Stoliczka, *Nat Hist Secy*Lt-Col H Hyde, *Treasurer*General duties of Secy carried on  
by Phil and Nat Hist Secretaries

1871

## President—

As in 1870

## Vice-Presidents—

Dr T Oldham

R Mitra

Lord Napier of Magdala

## Secretaries—

H. Blochmann, *Phil Secy*Dr F Stoliczka, *Nat Hist Secy*Lt-Col H Hyde, *Treasurer*General duties of Secy carried on  
by Phil and Nat Hist SecretariesIn Aug, Col J I Tennant suc-  
ceeded Col. Hyde, resigned

1872

1873

## President—

Dr T Oldham

In April, Col H. Hyde was elected  
President in place of Dr Oldham,  
resigned.

## Vice-Presidents—

As in 1872

## Secretaries—

Capt J Waterhouse, *Genl Secy*Dr F Stoliczka, *Nat Hist Secy*H Blochmann, *Phil Secy*Col J E Gastrell, *Treasurer*In May, Mr J Wood-Mason ap-  
pointed Nat Hist Secy in place of Dr  
F Stoliczka

1874

## President—

Col H Hyde

## Vice-Presidents—

As in 1872

## Secretaries—

*Secretaries—*Capt J Waterhouse, *Genl Secy*H Blochmann *Phil Secy*J Wood-Mason, *Nat Hist Secy*Col J E Gastrell, *Treasurer*

Dr Lewis officiated as Natural History Secretary for a short time

1876

*President—*

Dr T Oldham

*Vice Presidents—*

R Mitra

Hon L C Bayley

Col H L Thimlicher

*Secretaries—*Capt J Waterhouse, *Genl Secy*H Blochmann *Phy Secy*J Wood-Mason, *Nat Hist Secy*Col J E Gastrell, *Treasurer*

Dr Lewis officiated for a short time

On Col Gastrell's resignation Mr H

B Medlicott succeeded him in June

1877

*President—*

Hon Sir H C Bayley

*Vice Presidents—*

Dr R Mitra

Col H L Thimlicher

W T Blanford

*Secretaries—*Capt J Waterhouse, *Genl Secy*H Blochmann, *Phil Secy*J Wood-Mason, *Phy Secy*H B Medlicott, *Treasurer*

Mr J Wood-Mason resigned in July, Mr W T Blanford and Capt Waterhouse edited Part II of Journal

1878

*President—*

W. T. Blanford

*Vice Presidents—*

Dr R Mitra

H B Medlicott

T S Isare

*Secretaries—*Capt Waterhouse, *Genl Secy*H Blochmann *Phil Secy*R Lydellher *Nat Hist Secy*L Gay, *Treasurer*

In July, Mr Blochmann died, and Mr C H Tawney officiated Dr A I R Hoernle was appointed in November In August Mr Gay resigned, and Mr H Beverley was appointed Treasurer

Mr Lydellher resigned in March, and Capt Waterhouse and Mr W T Blanford again edited Part II of Journal

1879

*President—*

W T Blanford

In Dec., Mr H B Medlicott succeeded Mr Blanford

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Dr R Mitra

H B Medlicott

T S Isare

In Dec., Messrs C H Tawney and J Westlund succeeded Mr H B Medlicott and Mr T S Isare

*Secretaries—*Capt J Waterhouse, *Genl Secy*Dr A I R Hoernle, *Phil Secy*H Beverley, *Treasurer*

Capt J Waterhouse edited Part II of Journal till October, when Mr. J Wood-Mason was appointed Nat Hist Secy

In Dec., Capt Waterhouse resigned, and Mr J Crawford took his place.

1880

*President—*

H B Medlicott



## Appendix C.

*List of Books published, directly or indirectly, by the Asiatic Society of Bengal*

TRANSACTIONS				No of vols
Asiatic Researches, Vols I—XX, 1788—1839 (Vols XVII—XX being in two parts) 4to	...	...	...	20
Index to Vols I—XVIII of the Asiatic Researches 4to				1
Journal, Vols I—LII, 1832-83 (31 volumes being in two parts) 8vo				83
Index to Vols XIX—XX of the Asiatic Researches and Vols I—XXIII of the Journal 8vo	..	...	..	1
Proceedings, published separately from the year 1865 to 1883 8vo	...			19
CATALOGUES.				
Catalogue of the Books and Maps in the Library Edition of 1833				
Edited by Dr Burlin 8vo	...	..	.	1
Ditto ditto Edited by Dr Roer 1843 8vo		..	...	1
Ditto ditto Edited by Dr R Mitra. 1856 8vo		...	:	1
Catalogue of the Sanskrit Books and Manuscripts of the Asiatic Society 8vo 1838	...		..	1
A Descriptive Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Library of the Asiatic Society of Bengal Part I Grammar Edited by Dr R Mitra 8vo	.	.	...	1
Catalogue of Persian, Arabic, and Urdu Manuscripts and Books 8vo			.	1
Ditto of Nepalese Sanskrit Manuscripts, or the Buddhist Sanskrit Literature of Nepal By Dr R Mitra 8vo 1882			.	1
Ditto of the Fossil Remains of Vertebrata from the Sewalik Hills, the Nerbudda, Perim Island, &c, in the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal By H Falconer 8vo 1859				1
Ditto of the Recent Shells in the Museum of the Asiatic Society By W Theobald 8vo 1860	..	..		1
Ditto of the Reptiles in the Asiatic Society's Museum By W Theobald (Extra No, J A S B, 1875)	...	..	..	1
Ditto of Curiosities in the Museum of the Asiatic Society By Dr R Mitra. 8vo 1849	.	...	...	1
Ditto of the Birds in the Museum of the Asiatic Society By Ed Blyth 8vo 1849	...	.	..	1
Ditto of the Mammalia in the Museum of the Asiatic Society By Ed Blyth 8vo 1863	.	..		1
Ditto of Mammals and Birds of Burmah By Ed Blyth (Extra No, J. A S B, 1875)	.	...	...	1

## MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS.

	No of vols
General Cunningham's Archaeological Survey Report for 1863-64 (Extra No., J A S B, 1864) . . . . .	1
Sketch of the Turki Language as spoken in Eastern Turkestan Part II—Vocabulary By R B Shaw (Extra No., J A S B, 1878) . . . . .	1
A Grammar and Vocabulary of the Northern Balochi Language By M L Dames (Extra No., J A S B, 1880) . . . . .	1
Introduction to the Maithili Language of North Bihar By G A. Grierson Part—I Grammar (Extra No., J A S B, 1880) Part II—Chrestomathy and Vocabulary (Extra No., J A S B, 1882) . . . . .	2
Vedāntasāra Translated by Dr E Roer 8vo . . . . .	1
Moore and Hewetson's Descriptions of New Indian Lepidoptera Parts I and II 4to . . . . .	2
Lassen's Bactrian Coins Translated by Dr E Roer 8vo . . . . .	1
On the Aborigines of India Essay First, on the Coch, Bodo and Dhumal Tribes By B H Hodgson 8vo . . . . .	1

## ORIENTAL PUBLICATIONS

## SANSKRIT

Saṁsṛuta, a System of Medicine taught by Dhanvantari, and compiled by his pupil, Susruta 8vo . . . . .	2
Naishadha Charita, an Epic Poem by Sri Harsha Part I Edited by Premachānd Tarkavāgīsa 8vo 1835 . . . . .	1
Harivansa, or the History of the Yādava Race A Poem 4to. . . . .	1
Rājataranginī, or History of Kashmir 4to. . . . .	1
Mahābhārata, or a History of the Kurus and the Pāndus By Vyāsa. Vols I—IV. 4to . . . . .	4
Ditto Index. 4to . . . . .	1

## ARABIC

Fatāwe 'Alamgīrī, on Muhammadan Law 4to . . . . .	6
Istilahāt-i-Sūfiyā, or Technical Terms of the Sūfis Edited by Dr A Sprenger 8vo . . . . .	1
Jawāmi 'ul 'ilm ir Rāzī, on Surveying 4to . . . . .	1
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Sharāyat-ul Islam, Canonical Law of the Muhammadans 4to . . . . .	1
Anis-ul Musharrabīn, on Anatomy Translation of Hooper's <i>Vade mecum</i> 4to. . . . .	1
Inayah, a Commentary on the Hidāya, a work on Muhammadan Law 4to . . . . .	4

## PERSIAN.

Tarikh i Nadiri . . . . .	1
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## ORIENTAL PUBLICATIONS — (Continued)

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Chaitanya-chandrodaya Nāṭika, a Drama on the doctrine of Faith	By Kavikarnapurī Edited by Dr R Mitra Fasc I—III Nos 47, 48, 80	1
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The Markaṇḍeya Purāṇa	Edited by Rev K M Banerjē Fasc I—VII Nos 114, 127, 140, 163, 169, 177, 183	1
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The Brhad Āraṇyaka Upaniṣhad, with the Commentary of Sāṅkara Āchārya and the Gloss of Ānanda Giri	Edited by Dr E Roer. Fasc I—XI Nos 5—13, 16, 18	2
The Chhāndogya Upaniṣhad, with the Commentary of Sāṅkara Āchārya and the Gloss of Ānanda Giri	Edited by Dr E Roer Fasc I—VI Nos 14, 15, 17, 20, 23, 25	1
The Taittirīya, the Aitareya, and the Svetasvatara Upaniṣhads, with the Commentary of Sāṅkara Āchārya and the Gloss of Ānanda Giri	Edited by Dr E Roer Fasc I—III Nos 22, 33, 34	1
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The Nirukta, with Commentaries Edited by Pandit Satyavrata Śīma-srami Fasc I—VII Nos (N S) 449, 454, 460, 471, 477, 480, 494	2
The Śrauta Sūtra of Āpastambī, belonging to the Taittirīya Saṁhitā, with the Commentary of Rudradatta Edited by Dr Richard Garbe Fasc I—VII Nos. (N S) 461, 469, 474, 479, 483 .. ..	3
Parāśara Smṛiti Edited by Pandit Chandrakānta Tīrkālankāra Fasc I No (N S) 487 .. . . .	1
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*Arabic Works, complete.*

Arabic Bibliography. Edited by Dr A Sprenger Fasc I No (O S) 21	1
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Fotooh-al-Sham being an account of the Moslem Conquest in Syria By Aboo Ismā'īl, Muḥammad bin 'Abd Alla, Al-Azdi, Al-Baḡrī Edited by Eusign W N Lees Fasc I—IV. Nos (O S) 56, 62, 84, 85 ..	1
Tusy's List of Shy'ah Books and 'Alam Alhodā's Notes on Shy'ah Biography. Edited by Dr A Sprenger, Mawlavy 'Abd Al-Haqq and Mawlavy Gholam Qadir Fasc I—IV Nos (O S) 60, 71, 91, 107 (Publica- tion discontinued) .. ..	1
A Dictionary of the Technical Terms used in the Sciences of the Musal- mans Edited by Mawlavis Mohammad Wajih, Abd Al-Haqq, and Gholam Qadir, under the superintendence of Dr Aloys Sprenger and Capt W Nassau Lees Fasc I—XX Nos (O S) 58, 65, 82, 88, 95, 100, 108, 109, 118, 129, 132, 156, 158, 159, 162, 165, 167, 170, 173, 183 4to .. ..	2
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The Conquest of Syria, commonly ascribed to Aboo 'Abd Almh Moham- mad B 'Oma, Al-Waqidi. Edited by W Nassau Lees Fasc I—IX. Nos (O S) 59, 66, 96, 98, 102, 103, 164, 167, 187 .. ..	2
History of Mohammad's Campaigns, by Aboo 'Abd Ollah Mohammad 'Bin Omar Alwākidy Edited by Alfred von Kremer Fasc I—V Nos 110, 112, 113, 121, 139 .. ..	1

## Appendix C.

[PART I.]

The Nokhbat Al-Fikr and Nozhat Al-Nazr By Shahat Al-Din Ahmad  
 Ibn Hajar Al-'Asqalani Edited by Capt W Nassau Lees and Maw-  
 lavies Abd-Al-Haqq and Gholam Qadir Fasc I No (N S) 37 1

*Arabic Works, in progress*  
 Iqbal a Biographical Dictionary of Persons who knew Mohammad, by  
 Ibn Hajar Edited by Mawlavis Mohammad Wajih, 'Abd-al-Haqq,  
 and Gholam Qadir, Dr A Sprenger, Capt W N Lees and Mawlavi  
 Abd ul-Hu Vol I, Nos 1—12, Vol II, Nos 1—7, Vol III, Nos  
 1—5, Vol IV, Nos 1—10, with supplement (in all 35 Fasc) Nos  
 (O S) 61, 69, 75, 83, 86, 93, 101, 106, 111, 123, 128, 136, 138, 205,  
 207, 208, 209, 211, 214, 215, 225, 226, 227, 232, 234, 235, 238, 240,  
 242, 248 ... .. 3

*Persian Works, complete*  
 Khurad-námah-i Iskandari, also called the Sikandar-námah-i Bahry By  
 Nitzámy Edited by Dr A Sprenger, Aghá Mohammed Shoostari  
 and Mawlavi Agha Ahmad 'Ali Fasc I—II Nos (O S) 43, (N S) 1  
 171 (Publication discontinued)

Tárikh-i Feroz-Sháhí of Zina al-Din Barni, commonly called Zina-i Barni  
 Edited by Sayid Ahmad Khán, under the superintendence of Capt.  
 W. Nassau Lees and Mawlavi Kabir-al-din. Fasc. I—VII Nos  
 (N S) 2, 3, 7, 9, 14, 15, 23 ... .. 1  
 Tárikh-i Baháki, continuing the Life of Massúd, son of Sultán Mahmúd  
 of Ghazni, being the 7th, 8th, and 9th parts of the 6th and 10th  
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 27, 29, 31, 36 ... .. 1

Tabaqát-i Nasri of Abou 'Omar Muhiy Al-din 'Othmán, Ibn Siráj al-din  
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 47, 50 ... .. 1  
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No of vols

- Wis o Rīmān : a Romance of Ancient Persia Translated from the Pahlavi and rendered into verse by Fakhr Al-din, As'ud al-Astarābādī, Al-Fakhrī, Al Gurgām Edited by Capt W N Lees and Munshi Ahmed Ali Fasc I—V Nos (N S) 48, 49, 52, 53, 76 . . 1
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- Index of Names of Persons and Geographical Names occurring in the above By Maulavi Abdur Rahim Fasc I No (N S) 261 . 1
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- The Muntakhabat Al-Lubāb of Khafī Khan Edited by Maulavi Kabīr al-Din Ahmad Fasc I—XIX Nos (N S) 147, 148, 150, 151, 155, 156, 160, 165—167, 172, 173, 178, 180, 186, 192, 204, 205, 292 2
- The Maṣarī 'Ālāmgīrī of Muḥammad Saqī Mustafīd Khān Edited by Maulavi Āghā Ahmad 'Alī Fasc I—VI Nos (N S) 195, 210, 220, 232, 233, 289 ... 1
- The Farhang-i-Rashīdī A Persian Dictionary By Sayyid 'Abdurrahīm of Tattah Edited by Maulavi Zulfagīr Ali Fasc I—XIV Nos (N S) 200, 222, 231, 239, 243, 250, 255, 266, 271, 279, 302, 303, 317, 318 4to 2
- The Huft Āsmān, or History of the Masnawī of the Persians By the late Maulavi Āghā Ahmad 'Alī Printed with a Biographical Notice of the Author by Prof H Blochmann Fasc I No (N S) 294 ... 1

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- The Akbarnāmāh By Abul Fazl i Muḥarrak i 'Allāmī Edited by Maulavi 'Abd-ur-Rahim Vol I, Nos 1—8, Vol II, Nos 1—6 (double Nos), Vol III, Nos 1—4 (20 Fasc), Nos 283, 284, 319, 320, 352, 353, 362, 363, 374, 375, 379, 380, 411, 412, 431, 432, 467, 468, 484, 485 4to . . . . . 3

*Translations into English, complete*

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Division of the Categories of the Nyāya Philosophy.	
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Manis Grassicandata, (Auct.) M Pentadactyla (Ibid) Short-tailed or thick-tailed Manis In Hindustan, generally called "Bujjerkeet"—Orissa "Bujjer Kepta" and "Soo ruj Mookhee"—By the Lurka Koles, "Armoo"

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CENTENARY REVIEW  
OF THE  
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL  
*From 1784—1883.*

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PART II.  
ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY, LITERATURE, &c.

BY  
DR A F RUDOLF HOERNLE

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Published by the Society.





## P R E F A C E.

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THE subjects which were set apart for the investigation of the Literary Section of the Society are "Literature, Philology, History, Antiquities, Religion, Manners and Customs, and whatever is comprehended under the general term of Literature." Among these History and Antiquities are very closely connected with one another, the latter being subservient to a correct knowledge of the former. Hence the two first chapters of this Review are devoted to a survey of the results of antiquarian and archæological enquiry which are set out under the two heads of Antiquities, including ancient monuments, inscriptions, etc., and Coins. Next follows a chapter, giving a historical sketch of the two greatest discoveries to which the Society can lay claim, and which are directly based on its archæological researches, those of the decipherment of the Indian Pâli and the Arian Pâli alphabets. The next in order is a chapter containing a statement of the discoveries in Indian History, which were the natural result of the successful reading of the ancient inscriptions on stones, copper-plates and coins. The last chapter gives the results of the investigations into the Language and Literature of India and its multifarious races.

In compiling the several chapters, the writer has attempted to take as his model one of the best specimens of a review of this kind which forms the Introduction to the well-known *Arjana Antiqua* of Professor H. H. Wilson,

than whom the Society perhaps possessed no better writer. One portion, indeed, of that Introduction, reviewing the history of coin-discovery during the earlier half of the century, up to the year 1840, has been, as far as possible, adopted into the chapter on coins, the fresh portion of which mainly consists in continuing Professor Wilson's review through the remaining half of the century.

The system of transliteration is very imperfect. This is to be regretted ; for various reasons—one of them being the want of the necessary type—it was found to be impossible to carry through a more perfect one.

R. H.

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Centenary Review  
OF THE  
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*From 1784 to 1885.*

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Part II.

ARCHÆOLOGY, HISTORY, LITERATURE, Etc

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CHAPTER I.

ANTIQUITIES.

[Ancient Monuments    topes, temples, monu-  
on rocks, pillars, stone-slabs, copperplates  
historic remains, etc.]

ous accidents. If these be carefully preserved and diligently examined, and the facts ascertained from them be judiciously employed towards elucidating the scattered information, which can be yet collected from the remains of Indian literature, a satisfactory progress may be finally made in investigating the history of the Hindus."<sup>1</sup>

This remark is illustrated by the very first two ancient monuments, the discovery of which is recorded in any of the publications of the Society, and which, as it happened, have proved of very great consequence. For they led, as will be shown in a later place, one to the decipherment of the so-called Kutila, the other to the discovery of the so-called Gupta, characters. The former monument was the well-known monolith pillar of Buddal, the other were the celebrated Nágárjuní caves near Buddha Gaya, both described in 1785 in the first volume of the Asiatic Researches by Mr Charles Wilkins and Mr. John Herbert Harington respectively.<sup>2</sup> Curiously enough it was nearly a century afterwards, in 1874, that a transcript of the text of the Buddal Pillar inscription was for the first time published in the Journal by Babu Pratapa Chandra Ghosh.<sup>3</sup>

In the first volume of the Researches there is also a brief account by Mr. William Chambers of some sculptures and ruins at Mavalipuram (Mahábalipuram) on the Coromandel Coast in South India,<sup>4</sup> the ancient inscriptions on which were a few years afterwards brought to notice by Mr J. Goldingham,<sup>5</sup> and which, much later, in 1853, were re-described by Mr. C. Gubbins in the Journal.<sup>6</sup> The former also

<sup>1</sup> As Res, Vol. IX p 398    <sup>2</sup> As Res, Vol I pp 131 276, Vol II p 167, republished in J A S B, Vol. XVI, p 594    <sup>3</sup> J A. S B, Vol. XLIII, p 356  
<sup>4</sup> As Res, Vol. I, p 145    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. V p 69    <sup>6</sup> J. A. S B, Vol. XXII, p 656.

communicated some account of the well-known caves in Elephanta and the sculptures contained in them.<sup>1</sup>

About the same time, in 1795, the Society's attention was first directed to the famed monuments of antiquity on the site of old Delhi, the best known of which, the Qutab Minár, was measured and described by Ensign James T. Blunt.<sup>2</sup> His sketch of the Minár made in 1794 has a peculiar interest, as it shows that tower still crowned by the Sultan Fíruz Sháh's old cupola of red granite, which was thrown down in 1803 by an earthquake. Copies of the Persian inscriptions on the Minár were afterwards, in 1822, supplied by Mr Walter Ewer.<sup>3</sup> A general description of old Delhi as it appeared in 1793 was contributed by Lieutenant William Franklin.<sup>4</sup> On the opposite side of India, the ancient city of Pegu and its chief temple were briefly noticed in 1798 by Captain Michael Symes,<sup>5</sup> and the ancient pagoda of Perwattum with its sculptures in South India, by Major Kirkpatrick, from the journals of Captain Colin Mackenzie.<sup>6</sup>

But the most interesting communication of this period is Mr Jonathan Duncan's account of the discovery of two urns in a so-called tope or stúpa at Sáináth, about four miles from Benares.<sup>7</sup> This is the first mention of a monument of that class, which thenceforth was destined to prove one of the most important factors in opening up the ancient history of India through the coins, inscriptions, and other objects found in them. "In 1794, a native, digging for stones from extensive ruins at this spot, discovered, twenty-seven feet below the surface, a stone urn, of the size and shape of the Barberini vase enclosing one also

<sup>1</sup> *As Res*, Vol IV, p 409      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 313      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XIV, p 480

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IV, p 419      <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol V, p 111      <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 303      <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p 131





direction of Captain James Hoare, and presented by him to the Society, among which the most important were copies of the inscriptions on the celebrated pillars of Dehli and Allahabad<sup>1</sup> Both were about thirty years afterwards, in 1834 and 1837, republished in a more complete form by Mr. J. Prinsep, in the third and sixth volumes of the Journal, from drawings and copies prepared by Lieutenant T. S. Burt<sup>2</sup> In 1807, Mr. H. T. Colebrooke published a series of inscriptions on stone and copper of subordinate value. They had been presented to the Society from time to time, and came from Tripura, Gorakhpur, Chitrading, Kuru-gode, Kurah, Dinápur, Nidigal, Gouda, and Benares<sup>3</sup> In the same year also were published for the first time by Major C. Mackenzie figures, with inscriptions, of some celebrated Jain statues, especially of the gigantic image of Gomatesvara Srámi near Belhigola<sup>4</sup> A Sanskrit stone inscription of the Chandel Rájas was communicated in 1813 by Lieutenant W. Price, who had found it at the foot of a rocky hill in the vicinity of the town of Mow, about ten miles from Chatterpur<sup>5</sup> It was the first authentic notice of that line of mediæval princes of Bundelkhand, on whose history subsequent discoveries of inscriptions have thrown so much light<sup>6</sup>

In 1816, Mr. John Crawford presented to the Society an account of the Buddhist temple ruins situated about Prambanan in Java,<sup>7</sup> and Captain G. Sydenham, of the stately Muhammadan architecture in Bijapur, called "the Palmyra of the Dekkan" by Sir James Mackintosh<sup>8</sup> In

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<sup>1</sup> As Res Vol VII p 175    <sup>2</sup> J A S B Vol III pp 105, 114 118, see also p 257, and Vol VI p 566 see also p 963    <sup>3</sup> As Res, Vol IX, pp 398 401, 406, 412 421 422, 432, 434 438 441    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid* pp 256, 264 272    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VII, p 358    <sup>6</sup> J A S B, Vol VIII, p 159, Vol XXXII, p 273, Vol XLVII, pp 73, 80    <sup>7</sup> As Res, Vol XIII, p 337    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid* p 431

1825, Professor H. H. Wilson published some Sanskrit inscriptions, translated by Captain E. Fell, from Gairha Mandela, Hansi, and Benares, which gave a "tolerably satisfactory idea of the series of princes who reigned at Kanauj and Dehli" about the time of the Muhammadan conquest.<sup>1</sup> In the same year, Mr. R. Jenkins presented an account of the ancient Hindu remains in Chhattisgarh, together with some copperplate inscriptions, written in the square box-headed characters; a variety of monumental writing first made public on that occasion.<sup>2</sup> Mr A. Stirling also drew attention to the ancient temples and other antiquities of Orissa. Among the latter is specially noteworthy his copy of a portion of the famous Khandagiri rock inscription in the Asoka characters, then first made known.<sup>3</sup> It was republished in the *Journal*, in 1837, in a more complete form, by Mr. J. Prinsep, from copies prepared by Lieutenant Kittoe.<sup>4</sup> In the following volume of the *Asiatic Researches*, in 1828, the Rev G. H. Hough made known an inscription engraved on the Great Bell of Rangoon.<sup>5</sup> In the same volume Professor H. H. Wilson again published a large series of forty-three Sanskrit inscriptions found on Mount Abú, many of which are of much interest, because "they throw considerable light upon the religious and political history of a place which is of high consideration in the west of India, and elucidate the early career of different Rájput dynasties," such as the Chalukyas, Pramaras, Guhilas, Chauháns, etc.<sup>6</sup> The Jain temples on Mount Abú, in which some of these inscriptions occur, were described in the *Journal* of 1833 by Lieutenant Burnes.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *As. Res.*, Vol. XV, pp 436, 437, 443, 446, 460      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp 497, 506

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp 163, 306, 313, 329, 330, 337      <sup>4</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. VI, p 1650

<sup>5</sup> *As. Res.*, Vol. XVI, p 270      <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp 284, 317      <sup>7</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. II, p 161

The most important event of this time was the opening of the great tope at Manikyála, which had been already observed and described by Elphinstone in 1808<sup>1</sup>. It was effected by General Ventura in 1830. An account of it in French was forwarded by the General to Calcutta and published by Professor H. H. Wilson in the Asiatic Researches in 1832,<sup>2</sup> and republished later, in 1834, in an English version, by Mr J. Prinsep, in the Journal.<sup>3</sup> Lieutenant Alexander Burnes, who afterward visited the opened tope, made known in 1833 some further particulars concerning it,<sup>4</sup> and so did Major J. Abbot on a much later visit in 1853.<sup>5</sup> A good deal more information on this tope, as well as on some others in the Panjab and in Afghanistan which were opened by General Court and Messrs Honigberger and Masson respectively, was made public in the Journal for 1834 by Dr Gerald and Mr. J Prinsep, derived from the letters and journals of the original discoverers.<sup>6</sup>

The Journal of the year 1834 is particularly rich in the record of discoveries. Thus Captain P. T. Cautly announced the important discovery by him of the remains of an ancient town at Behat, near Saharanpur, seventeen feet below the present surface of the country and upwards of twenty-five below that of the modern town of Behat. Various relics were found, and one hundred and seventy coins, all of very ancient date (Indo-Scythian and early Buddhist), fixing the age of the town in the earliest centuries of our era.<sup>7</sup> Mr B. H. Hodgson communicated the discovery of three *lâths* or monumental pillars, with inscriptions in the Asoka characters on them.

<sup>1</sup> See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 31    <sup>2</sup> *As Res* Vol. XVII, pp 563, 600    <sup>3</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 315    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. II, p. 308    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXII, p. 570.  
<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. III, pp 321, 329, 556    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, pp 43, 221, 227

Among them were the now well-known Radhiah and Mathiah Pillars. Two of the pillars, those at Bakhiah in Tihut and Radhiah in Sârun, had been already noticed in 1784 by Mr Law, and later by Mr Stirling; and of the Mathiah Pillar Mr. Hodgson himself had sent a notice already ten years previously; but at that time these notices appear to have attracted no attention. Their importance, however, was now recognized by Mr. J. Prinsep, who, seeing at once that the inscriptions they bore were identical with those on the pillars of Allahabad and Dehli, published them in full<sup>1</sup> At the same time, his attention having been recalled by Mr. Hodgson to the famous Sanchi Tope and its inscriptions near Bhilsa, he reprinted a description of them from the *Calcutta Journal* of the 11th July, 1819, where it had been published by Captain E. Fell, the original discoverer of the Tope<sup>2</sup> Several of the inscriptions taken by Captains Smith and Burt, and drawings of the monuments and its sculptures prepared by Captain Murray, were published by Mr. J. Prinsep later on, in the sixth and seventh volumes of the *Journal*, in 1837 and 1838<sup>3</sup> They led to important results, enabling Mr Prinsep, as will be related in another place, to extend his discoveries and to complete the deciphering of the ancient alphabet and inscriptions on the staff of Firoz Shah, on the Buddhist coins of Behat, and on the rocks in Orissa and Guzerat<sup>4</sup> An important link, however, in the chain of events, which led to these discoveries, was the publication by Mr. W H Wathen, in 1835, of two Vallabhi copperplate grants found in the

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol III, pp 481, 483 and Vol IV p 124      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol III, pp 488-490      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VI, pp 451ff, Vol VII, pp 562ff      <sup>4</sup> See Ariana Antiqua, pp 33, 34

western part of Guzerat, and written in an alphabet intermediate between that of Asoka and the Guptas <sup>1</sup>

In the Journal of the same year, 1835, various ancient ruins were described ; those of Simaun, once the capital of the Mithla Province, by Mr B H Hodgson ,<sup>2</sup> those of an ancient city near Bakhra, north of Patna, by Mr J Stephenson ,<sup>3</sup> those at Cháidwái in Assam, by Captain G. E Westmacott ,<sup>4</sup> and those of the Baynáth Temple at Harsha in Shekáwati, by Sergeant E Dean <sup>5</sup> A long inscription of the tenth century was found in the latter place and published by Dr W H Mill <sup>6</sup> In the following year, 1836, Mr C Masson contributed some notes on the antiquities of Bámián, especially of its caves and colossal idols, which had already been noticed in 1833 by Lieutenant Alexander Burnes <sup>7</sup> Mr. L Wilkinson made known a copperplate grant found at Piphanagar in the Shujalpur Pergunah, which turned out to be of some importance as it supplemented the list of Rájas of Malva by four hitherto unknown names <sup>8</sup> Colonel H Burney reported the discovery of some Buddhist images at Tagoung, the ancient capital of Burma, which were inscribed with the well-known Buddhist creed in Gupta characters and in the Pah language <sup>9</sup>

By this time copies of such a large number of inscriptions of diverse kinds, which had been discovered from time to time, had been accumulating in the hands of the Society, that it was feared that they might be mislaid or lost sight of, before anyone was found with sufficient leisure to decipher them completely, unless they were at once com-

<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol IV, p 477    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 121    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 128    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 185    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p 361    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 367    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. V, p 707, see also Vol II, p 561    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. V, p 378, see also Vol. VII, p 73b, for another grant.    <sup>9</sup> *Ibid* Vol V, p 157

mitted to print. Accordingly, Mr. J. Prinsep published in 1836, in the fifth volume of the *Journal*, a long series of facsimiles of ancient inscriptions, including those from Wara in South Konkan, from the Damathia Cavern near Maulmain, from the fort of Chunar near Benares, from Barahat in Garhwál, from Iskardo in Little Tibet,<sup>1</sup> from the caves of Ajunta,<sup>2</sup> from Asingari, from Peshawar (on a bronze image), from Kumaon (on bronze tridents at Barahat and Gopesvara),<sup>3</sup> from Tincomalee and other places in Ceylon,<sup>4</sup> from Buddha Gaya,<sup>5</sup> from Seoni (five copperplates), and a few from unknown places.<sup>6</sup> This series of facsimiles was continued in the volumes for 1837 and 1838, which contain the following inscriptions: from the Amrávati Tope (from Colonel Colin Mackenzie's manuscripts),<sup>7</sup> from Kalanjar in Bundelkhand, from Gumsai (three copperplates), from the Nágájuní Caves near Gaya, from a rock at Singapur,<sup>8</sup> from Allahabas in the Bareilly District (found by Mr. H. S. Bouldeson in 1826 or 1827), from Mullaje (three copperplates),<sup>9</sup> from Hund near Attock, from Jayanagar in Bundelkhand (the sixth),<sup>10</sup> from Gorakhpur (on the Kubaon pillar), from Bakerpore in Eastern Bengal (copperplate), from Ajmir (on a Jain image),<sup>11</sup> from Cuttack (Brahmesvara temple),<sup>12</sup> from Warangal, from Kana in Guzerat (copperplates),<sup>13</sup> from Bageswar near Almora in Kumaon,<sup>14</sup> and again a few from unknown places.<sup>15</sup>

Early in 1837, the Rev Dr. W. H. Mill made known a new Gupta inscription, copied by Lieutenant (now Major General) A. Cunningham from the newly-discovered Bhitari

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol V, pp 340, 341, 347, 348<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pp 348, 556 <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, pp 482, 484, 485, see also Vol VII, p 39 <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol V, pp 454, 456 <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p 657. <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 724 <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VI, p 218 <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, pp 665, 667, 671, 680, see also Vol XVII, Part I, p 154; Part II, p 66 <sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. VI, pp 569, 876, 887 <sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VII, pp 33, 40, 51 <sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, p 557 <sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, pp 901, 908, 966 <sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, p 1056 <sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VI, pp 278, 663

Lath (or Pillar) in the Ghazipur District,<sup>1</sup> while a little later, Mr. J Prinsep republished the Gupta inscription on the Allahabad Pillar from impressions taken by Captain Edward Smith.<sup>2</sup> He also published two collections of smaller inscriptions in the most ancient characters, which had been newly made. one by Major Kittoe from the caves at Udayagni and Khandagiri in Cuttack<sup>3</sup> (Eastern India), the other by Colonel W H Sykes from the caves (Kaile, Samhadu) of Western India<sup>4</sup> In the following year, 1838, he crowned his labours in this direction by the publication of copies of the celebrated great rock inscriptions at Dhaul and Gernar (of Asoka and Chandragupta), together with detailed descriptions of their localities, the materials for which had been supplied to him by Major Kittoe, Captain Lang, Lieutenant Postans, and the Rev Dr J. Wilson<sup>5</sup> To these he added the smaller, though no less important, Gupta inscriptions at Dehli and Eran, taken in ectype by Capt T S Burt<sup>6</sup> Of the latter, those at Eran were later on, in the year 1861, re-deciphered and re-translated by FitzEdward Hall<sup>7</sup>

As already mentioned, for much of his information Mr Prinsep was indebted to Major Kittoe, who had been deputed by the Coal and Mineral Committee to explore the supposed coal-fields of Orissa He left "with a determination to make the most of his time and journey, also of the small pecuniary allowance made for the purpose, in antiquarian and other research beyond the mere exploring of the coal localities" The results of these antiquarian researches were communicated, in 1838, in the seventh volume of the Journal, including descriptions and drawings of caves

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, p 1    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 969    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 1072    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 1038    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. VII, pp 219, 334, 434, 865    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 629    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXX, p 14, see also Vol XXXIV, p 38



(Udayagiri), temples (Gramesvara, and others), pillars (at Jājipur), inscriptions, etc.<sup>1</sup> In the same volume is published an inscription in Burmese and Talain "with an admixture of Pali at the commencement and termination," engraved on a large Arracan Bell, which was taken by Captain Wroughton. This bell was then at Nadroighat, in the Aligarh District, but had originally belonged to the Gaudama Mani temple in Arracan. The somewhat romantic story of how it was carried off from there by a native non-commissioned officer after the war in 1825 is related in the sixth volume of the Journal.<sup>2</sup> The inscription happens to contain "a scrap of history of no small interest in its way."<sup>3</sup>

With the year 1838 the era of great discoveries may be said to have closed. Not much was done in 1839, but the joint editors of the Journal published a new Chandel inscription discovered and copied by Captain T. S. Burt from a slab in the temple of Lālaji at Khajuráo in Bundelkhand,<sup>4</sup> a Chera copperplate grant dug up at Baroda in Guzerat,<sup>5</sup> a Kulachúri copperplate grant dug up at Kumbhi in the Sagar territory,<sup>6</sup> and a Tomára inscription on a slab originally at the fort of Rohtas in Behar.<sup>7</sup> The latter had been brought to their notice by Mr. E. L. Ravenshaw, who also contributed some account of various other antiquities (Persian and Sanskrit inscriptions) in Behar.<sup>8</sup>

The following year, 1840, was again signalled by a small, though most important, discovery. It was that of a new specimen of an Asoka edict, which was found by Captain Burt engraved on a rock near Banat or Bhabia.<sup>9</sup> Another small contribution was made by Captain Burt, in

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. VII, pp. 53, 660, 679, 828, see also Vol. XXV, p. 222

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 1064

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 287

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VIII, p. 159

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 292

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 487

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 693

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 347

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*,  
Vol. IX, p. 616

an inscription from Udavapur near Sagar, which deserves particular mention, because the date is given in three eras of Vikramáditya, Sahváhana, and Udayáditya,<sup>1</sup> the last of which was new. Of some importance is also a very ancient inscription from the fort of Belar, communicated by Mr Ravenshaw, written in badly - formed characters of the Gupta style.<sup>2</sup> Major Jenkins made known an ancient Assamese land grant on three copperplates, dug up near Tez-pore in the Dimaig Division.<sup>3</sup> Another copper land grant, of the Rathor Prince Jaya Chandra of Kanauj, found near Fyzabad in Oudh, was made known in the following year 1841.<sup>4</sup> But a far more interesting publication of that year was the account of the opening of the ancient topes at Kanheri near Bombay, and at Damta in Afghanistan, by Dr James Bird and Lieutenant Pigon respectively. The usual relics, consisting of inscriptions, coins, jewels, etc., were found in them.<sup>5</sup> Lieutenant Alexander Cunningham published a sketch of the second silverplate found by Dr Loid in Badakshan, a drawing of the first patera having been already given in 1838 in the seventh volume of the Journal.<sup>6</sup> Two inscriptions from the neighbourhood of Mount Abú (Vasantgarh), dated in Samvat 1099 and 1053, both discovered and taken by Captain T S Burt, were also made known by the editors of the Journal.<sup>7</sup>

The period including the years 1842 to 1846 is one of the most barren of discoveries, so far as recorded in the pages of the Society's Journal. But the only two communications,—one, in 1842, of an ancient Himaritic stone inscription found near "Aden,"<sup>8</sup> the other, in 1844, of a

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. IX, p. 545, see also Vol. VII, p. 1056    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, p. 65, see also Vol. VIII, p. 347    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, p. 766    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, p. 98  
<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 94, 381    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 570, and Vol. VII, p. 1047    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, pp. 664, 819, 821    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XI, p. 958

Chinese inscription on a wooden tablet in a Buddhist monastery at Ningpo,<sup>1</sup>—have at least the interest of illustrating the wide sphere embraced by the researches of the Society.

With the year 1847 a new period of archæological activity commenced, worthily introduced by Captain M. Kittoe, who supplied much fresh information on the numerous antiquities in Behar,<sup>2</sup> especially on the caves and their inscriptions at Barábar,<sup>3</sup> the sculptures at Buddha Gaya, etc.,<sup>4</sup> and the temples and inscriptions at Oomga.<sup>5</sup> Mr. D. Money contributed an account of the ruined old temple of Tübeni near Hughli;<sup>6</sup> Captain J. D. Cunningham, of the antiquities in the districts within the Bhopal Agency, including the well-known topes near Blulsa;<sup>7</sup> and Mr Henry Cope, of the ruins of Ranode in the Chandorí District of Scindiah's dominions.<sup>8</sup> Captain James Abbott reported the discovery of some sculptures in the Panjab, showing traces of Greek influence.<sup>9</sup> A higher interest possess the contributions of Mr. William Knighton, who described the dagobahs (or topes) and viháras of Anuradhapura, the former capital of Ceylon, and the rock temples at Dambool, also in Ceylon.<sup>10</sup>

The volume of the following year, 1848, is again replete with descriptions of antiquities; thus, those of Saugua and its neighbourhood, by Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ousley,<sup>11</sup> those at Kalnjar in Bundelkhand, by Lieutenant F. Maisey;<sup>12</sup> those in the vicinity of Suddjah in Upper Assam, by Major S. F. Hannay;<sup>13</sup> those at Pukarí, near Udayapur, by Captain J. D. Cunningham.<sup>14</sup> A few inscriptions were also pub-

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XIII, p 113<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XVI, p 272<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 401<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 334<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, pp 656, 1220<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 393<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 739<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p. 1079<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p 664<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, pp 213, 340<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XVII,

Part I, p. 65.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, p 171<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, p 459<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, p 305

lished, one from the Vijaya Mandir in Udayapur, another of a copperplate grant,<sup>1</sup> and a third, a Buddhist one, of rather more interest, from the village of Pesserawa in Bihar.<sup>2</sup> Of still greater interest, however, were a few small inscriptions in the ancient Gupta characters, found on a granite rock at a place called Tokoon, almost directly east of Penang town in the peninsula of Malacca, and forwarded by Lieutenant-Colonel James Low<sup>3</sup> In the following year, 1849, another similar inscription was sent by him from Keddah, near Buket Muniam<sup>4</sup> In the same year, Captain James Abbott reported the discovery by him of remains of Greek sculptures in Potawar or the tableland between the Indus and Jelum in the Panjab,<sup>5</sup> and Dr. Impey announced the discovery of the famous colossal Jain figure on a spur of the Satpura Range in the district of Burwání on the Nerbada It is a colossal rock image cut in relief, nearly 80 feet high, and second only in magnitude to the celebrated so-called Bhúts at Bamiyan,<sup>6</sup> and about twice as large as the colossal figures at Kasia in the Gorakhpur District<sup>7</sup> and at Belligola in Mysore.<sup>8</sup> Two years later another colossal figure, of a head only, near Bhagalpur, was made known by Captain W. S. Sherwell It had been, however, already noticed by Dr. Buchanan in 1810<sup>9</sup> The preceding year, 1850, had brought only two small inscriptions, one on a brick found in a field in the Jaunpur District by Captain M. Kittoe,<sup>10</sup> and another, a Malva land grant, on two copperplates dug out by Mr. R. N. C. Hamilton near Oujein and published by Babu Rájendralála Mitra<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XVII, Part I, pp. 68, 71      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 492      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Part II, pp. 62, 71      <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVIII, p. 247      <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 131      <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 918  
<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 477      <sup>8</sup> As Res., Vol. IX, p. 264      <sup>9</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XX, p. 272      <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIX, p. 454      <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 475

The following ten years were not much more fruitful, though each year brought some more or less important discovery. Thus in 1851 we have a very short notice of certain hitherto unvisited rockcut caves near the village of Marah in Singbhûm, which had been seen by the Rev. Mather in January, 1850;<sup>1</sup> and of a fine ancient stone bridge (Sil Hako) near Gowhatty in the Kamrup District.<sup>2</sup> In 1852, we have detailed descriptions by Mr. W. Jackson and Mr. (now Sir) E. C. Bayley of sculptures found in the Peshawur District and exhibiting traces of Greek influence.<sup>3</sup> In 1853 there is a notice of an inscription from Pelhewa in the Thanessar District found by Mr. Bowering and published by Babu Rájendralála Mitra.<sup>4</sup> The year 1854 brings us the two now well-known rock inscriptions found by Mr. E. C. Bayley on two large granite boulders about thirty yards apart, near the village of Khunniára in the Kángra District. Though exceedingly small, consisting of only two or three words, they are of extreme interest, seeing that they are duplicates in the ancient Arian Páli and Indian Páli characters respectively.<sup>5</sup> In the same year Mr. E. Thomas also published the result of the final excavations, so far as made by Captain M. Kittoe and himself, on the site of the well-known old tope and monastery at Sárnáth near Benares.<sup>6</sup> This report was continued, in the twenty fifth volume of the Journal in 1856, from official papers communicated by the Government of the N. W. Provinces. In 1855 there is an important contribution by Captain E. Taite Dalton, giving a full description of the antiquities of Assam, especially its temples and sculptures (in Gow-

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XX, p. 283    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 291    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXI, pp. 511, 606

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, p. 673, see also Vol. XXXII, p. 97, Vol. XXXIII, p. 223

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIII, p. 57    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 469    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXV, p. 395

hatty, Tejpore, Seesee, and other places)<sup>1</sup> There is also a very meagre notice of the ruins of the deserted city of Dhúlme in Maubhúm by Mr Henry Piddington.<sup>2</sup>

With 1857 begins a series of valuable contributions on the antiquities of Burma It was commenced by Captain Henry Yule, on the ancient Buddhist remains, chiefly temples at Pugán on the Iráwadí,<sup>3</sup> and continued by Colonel (now Sir) A P Phayre, who, in 1860 added an account of an ancient Buddhist monastery, in 1863 of an old Burmese inscription, and in 1864 of some ancient tiles at the same place<sup>4</sup> In 1858, Mr FitzEdward Hall published two copper land grants of the Rathore Princes, Madanapála and Govinda Chandia of Kanauj, neither of very great importance;<sup>5</sup> and in the following year, 1859, he added a Sanskrit stone inscription, from Hansanda in the Hoshangabad District, of an unknown prince Devapála, recording the construction of a temple and a tank<sup>6</sup> In the previous year, Mr Henry Cope also made known a series of six Persian inscriptions, mostly of the earliest Moghul Emperors, all of which exist on certain public buildings in Lahor<sup>7</sup>

With the year 1861 contributions describing archaeological discoveries again began to become more numerous Thus several very important land grants were made known in that year, among them especially two grants, on two and three copperplates respectively, of king Hastin, which, being dated in terms both of the Gupta era and the Jovian Cycle, are of extreme value for the determination of the initial year of that ancient era They are said to have

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XXIV, p 1    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 207    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXVI, p 1

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXIX, p 346, Vol XXXII, p 267, Vol XXXIII, p 67    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXVII, pp 217, 241    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXVIII, p 1    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXVII, p 308

been procured from Nagode in Bundelkhand, and are now deposited in the Benares College.<sup>1</sup> A third is a large stone inscription from Belhari, which throws much light on the old kingdom of Chedi and its Kulachûi princes.<sup>2</sup> A fourth is a Malava land grant on two copper-plates of the tenth century, found not far from Indore.<sup>3</sup> These four inscriptions were all made public by Mr. FitzEdward Hall. In the same year, it may be mentioned, Babu Rájendralála Mitra republished from Mr. E. Thomas's edition of J. Prinsep's *Indian Antiquities*<sup>4</sup> the important Arian Páli inscription, which had been discovered by Mr. Masson on a brass vase in one of the Wardak topes in Afghanistan.<sup>5</sup> The same made known in the following year, 1862, a number of relics and a small Arian Páli inscription found by Captain Stubbs not far from Ráwal Pindi in the Panjab, where they had been exhumed from the centre of some ruins.<sup>6</sup> Mr. FitzEdward Hall again published three more copper land grants of the Kulachûi princes of Chedi, one of which, however, had already appeared previously in the *Journal* of 1839.<sup>7</sup> The most valuable contribution, however, was one by Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Yule on the ancient Indian remains, both Buddhistic and Brahmanical, in the Island of Java, the existence of some of which was known from the earlier accounts of Messrs Raffles and Crawford. The temples now described were those of Mundot, Borobodor, and Brambanan.<sup>8</sup> In 1863, there are an account by the Rev. J. Löwenthal of some antiquities in the Peshawar

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, p. 1, see also Genl. A. Cunningham's *Arch. Report*, Vol. X Appendix.    <sup>2</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, p. 317.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 195.    <sup>4</sup> *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. I, p. 163.    <sup>5</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, p. 557.    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. XXXI, p. 175.    see also *ibid.* p. 184.    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 111, see also Vol. VIII, p. 151.    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. XXXI, pp. 16, 20, 21.

District,<sup>1</sup> and some remarks on the Tavila and other Arian Pāli inscriptions by Major-General A Cunningham and Babu Rājendralāla Mitra.<sup>2</sup> The latter also published two stone inscriptions, one a Chandel one from Kajrāha in Bundelkhand, the other a Chedi one from Rataupuri in the province of Nāgpur.<sup>3</sup> It may be mentioned here, that, in the volume of the Journal for the year 1863, General A Cunningham's Archæological Survey Report was published for the first time as a 'supplementary number,' communicated by the Government of India. This practice was only continued, however, for three years, the Archæological Reports published in the three Journals being for the years 1861—1864.<sup>4</sup>

General Cunningham's operation undoubtedly gave a new stimulus to archæological researches; for, during the next following years, contributions on this subject to the Journal grew more and more numerous, so much so that some of the volumes are almost entirely taken up by them. For the most part, however, these contributions refer to remains, not of the highest antiquity, but of the middle ages, immediately before and after the Muhammadan conquest of India. Thus, in 1864, the Rev J Löwenthal sent some Persian inscriptions recorded in the tombs and mosques of Sinagar in Kashmir.<sup>5</sup> Captain C. Glasford reported on the Hindu antiquities (temples, ruins, sculptures, and inscriptions) of Bustan, about eight hundred years old.<sup>6</sup> From Captain H Mackenzie there is a short note on the antiquities of Guzerat, including some inscriptions from Hailan.<sup>7</sup> Babu Rājendralāla Mitra published

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XXXII, p 1    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pp 139, 151, see also Vol XXXIII, p 35    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXII, pp 273, 277    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 1 (for 1861-1862), Vol XXXIII, p 1 (for 1863-1864), Vol XXXIV, p 295 (for 1862-1863)    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXIII, p 278    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid* p 44    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, pp 402, 549



a copper land grant of Mahendrapála Deva of Kanauj, found at Digheva Dúbanesar in the Sárún District <sup>1</sup> He also described some ancient Buddhist remains of a monastery excavated by Mr. Harris in connection with the East Indian Railway at Sultanganj. In it, among other relics, a colossal copper figure of Buddha was discovered <sup>2</sup>

It had all along been well known that Benares was in a sense the "birthplace of Buddhism;" yet, strange to say, hitherto few or no Buddhist remains in the city proper had been discovered, but the reason of this was that they had never been sought after. It is true, extensive ruins had been found at Sárnáth, but they were three miles distant from the present city. Accordingly a search was made in the course of the year 1863 by the Rev. M. A. Sherring and Mr. C. Horne, jointly, with much success, and an account of the remains discovered at Bakaiya-kund, Rájghát and other places, was communicated by them in 1865 and 1866 <sup>3</sup> They also reported on some ancient remains at Sandpúr and Bhitarí, which hitherto had escaped notice.<sup>4</sup> Mr. C. Horne himself added a note on the already much discussed ruins of Buddha Gaya, on which subject there is also a note by Mr. W. Peppe in 1866, and by Babu Rájendralála Mitra in 1864 <sup>5</sup> The latter also published an important inscription of the Sena Rájas of Bengal, found by Mr. C. T. Metcalfe near Deoparah in Rájsháhi, which gave fresh information on the earlier members of that royal house.<sup>6</sup> In 1866, the Rev. W. G. Cowie described some of the temples of Kashmir, which had been left unnoticed by General A. Cunningham in

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIII, p. 321    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 360    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 1, Vol. XXXV, p. 61, see also Vol. XLII, p. 160    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 80    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 278, Vol. XXXV, p. 49; Vol. XXXIII, p. 173    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 128

his Essay published in the Journal for 1848;<sup>1</sup> and three years later, in 1869, Lieutenant-Colonel D F. Newall again added the description of a few more, those of Razdan in the Lar Pergunnah.<sup>2</sup> Captain W R Melville reported the discovery of some "totally new Buddhist ruins" of a temple, containing some sculptures and an inscription, situated at Dáb Kúnd in Eastern Rajputána.<sup>3</sup> Mr W J. Herschel described a very curious old fort and temple of Chandianekhaganh, which he found in the jungle near Sash-taní in the Midnapur District,<sup>4</sup> and Lieutenant-Colonel E T Dalton, some antiquities in Manbhúm, some of which had been already previously noticed.<sup>5</sup> Babu Rájen-dralál Mitra made known a copper land grant from Sambalpm,<sup>6</sup> and the important well-known inscriptions of the later Guptas from Aghsar and Bihar, one of which had been already before published in 1840.<sup>7</sup> In the Journal for 1867, Mr C Horne continued his antiquarian papers, one on the Jumma Masjid of Etawah, originally a Hindu temple, another on the Buddhist remains in the Manpur District, and a third on the carvings on the Buddhist rail-posts at Buddha Gaya.<sup>8</sup> A similar instance of a Hindu temple converted into a mosque was noted by Mr. W Herschel in the following year, 1868, at Gaganesvar in the Midnapur District.<sup>9</sup> Babu Gaur Dass Bisack described the antiquities of Bágerhát, fifty miles south of Jessore, consisting of Muhammadan tombs and mosques, not more than four hundred years old;<sup>10</sup> and Lieutenant Ayton Pullan, some ancient Hindu temple

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XXXV, p 91, see also Vol XVII, p 241    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXVIII, p 177    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXV, p 168    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 181    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p 186    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 195    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 268, see also Vol IX, p 65    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXXVI, pp 74, 105, 107, 157    <sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXVII, p 73    <sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXXVI, p 126

ruins and sculptures in the dense forest at the foot of the Hinálayas between Gharwál and Rohilkhund.<sup>1</sup> From Dr. A. Bastian was received the translation of an inscription existing "inside the great temple at Nakhon Vat in Kam-bodia."<sup>2</sup> In 1869, Babu Pratap Chandra Ghoshia published a copper land grant of the Dor Rájas at Manpur in the Bulandshahar District;<sup>3</sup> and in 1871, two other copper land grants found at Chaibása in Singbhúm.<sup>4</sup>

The year 1870 brought some more than usually interesting accounts of discoveries. Among these was the well-known Arian Páli copperplate inscription, found in a ruined Buddhist tower at Sue Vihár near Bhawalpur, which Mr. (now Sir) E. C. Bayley made known with a tentative reading, and of which a correct translation was published about ten years later by the writer of this Review.<sup>5</sup> No less important was the celebrated series of Mathura inscriptions, which Babu Rájendralála Mitra made public. They were engraved on the remains of Buddhist buildings and sculptures, dating from the time of the Indo-Scythian kings. These remains had been found already in 1862 by Mr. Best, the Collector of Mathura, and had been removed to Calcutta in 1863, but the inscriptions on them had, until now, not been published.<sup>6</sup> Of no inconsiderable interest was also the series of Arabic and Persian inscriptions scattered over Bengal, the publication of which was commenced by Mr H. Blochmann in the same year 1870, and by the help of which it afterwards became possible to correct and supplement the Muhammadan historians of Bengal and construct a trustworthy history of that province under its Muham-

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XXXVI, p 154    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 76    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXXVIII, p 21    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XL, p 161    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXXIX, p 65, and Proceedings for 1881, p 139    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXXIX, p 117, see also General A Cunningham's Arch Rep in J A S B, Vol. XXXIV, p 155

madan rulers. The inscriptions, together with notes on the buildings in which they occurred, which were made public by Mr. Blochmann in the year 1870, were from Tirbeni, Mulla Smila, Sâtgânw, Pandnah, and Dinánáth in the English District<sup>1</sup> In 1871 followed inscriptions from Budwan and Gamr, together with a few others not belonging to Bengal;<sup>2</sup> and in 1872, some from Dinájpúr, Dháká, Dhámraí, Badaon, and 'Alápúr<sup>3</sup> Finally, from 1873 to 1875, came his well-known contributions to the geography and history of Bengal during the Muham-madan period, based partly on the inscriptions already published, partly on others which were now first made known<sup>4</sup>

To return again to the year 1870, Mr. J. D Tremlett described some of the ancient Hindu and Pathan buildings of historical or architectural interest situated in or around the site of old Delhi, which had been left unnoticed in the Archaeological Reports of General Cunningham.<sup>5</sup> There are also some notes of lesser interest on the antiquities of the Nalt, the Assia and the Mahávmayaka Hills of Cuttack by Babu Chandrasekhara Banerji,<sup>6</sup> supplemented afterwards, in 1875, by Mr J Beames, on the Altí Hills;<sup>7</sup> also some notice of the archæological remains at Shah-kidheri and the site of Taxila in the Panjab by Mr J G Delmerick,<sup>8</sup> and of three sets of copper land grants discovered in the Vizagapatam District, by the Rev T Fonlkes<sup>9</sup> In 1871, there was an important report by Captain W L Samuells on the discovery of ruins of rock-cut temples of the

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XXXIX pp 280, 283, 291, 292 300, 302<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XL pp 251, 256, 258 <sup>3</sup> *Ibid* Vol XLI, pp 102, 107, 109, 110, 112 <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLII, p 209, Vol XLIII p 280, Vol XLIV, p 275 <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXIX, p 70 <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 158 <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLIV, p 19 <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXIX, p 89, <sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p 153

ninth or tenth century at Harchoka on the Rewa and Chutiya-Nágpúr frontier<sup>1</sup> There were also some less important notes on the antiquities of Jáppur in Orissa by Babu Chandrasekhara Banurji;<sup>2</sup> and on three rather modern inscriptions, one of them in Hindi verse, found in Chutiya-Nágpúr, by Babu Rakhal Das Haldar.<sup>3</sup> Mr J Beames also contributed notices of Buddhist ruins at Kopari in the Balasore District,<sup>4</sup> and in the following year, 1872, some more on the remains at Chhatiya near Katak.<sup>5</sup> In the same year the antiquities of the much-discussed and much-described home of Buddhism, Bihar, was once more treated very fully by Mr. A. M. Broadley.<sup>6</sup>

Hitherto the historic remains of ancient and mediæval India had almost entirely monopolised the attention of the Society, but now the so-called prehistoric remains also began to be drawn within the sphere of their research. One of the first moves in this direction had already been made in 1870 by Colonel Sir A. Phayre, who reported the discovery of a circle of tall, upright stones near Sung Butte in the district of Yusufzai in Afghanistan.<sup>7</sup> Col. E. T. Dalton now contributed, in 1873, a description of rude sepulchral stone monuments in Chutiya-Nágpúr and other places.<sup>8</sup> The subject was continued some years later, in a series of papers, by Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac, who described in 1877 the ancient sculpturings (cup-marks, circles, &c.) to be seen on rocks in Kumaon, similar to those found on monoliths and rocks in Europe;<sup>9</sup> in 1879, the prehistoric remains in Central India (Nágpúr, etc.);<sup>10</sup> and in 1883, stone implements from the N-W Provinces of India.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XL p 177      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p 151      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p 165      <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p 217  
<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol XLI p 7      <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p 209      <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol XLIV p 5  
<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol XLII p 112      <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol XLVI, p 1      <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol XLVIII, p 1  
<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol LII, p 221

Mr W. King, also, noticed in 1877 a prehistoric burial-place with cineriform monoliths, near Mungapet in the Nizam's dominions <sup>1</sup>

In the volume of 1873, Bahu Rájendralála Mitra published copper land grants of the Rathore prince Govinda Chandra of Kanauj of the twelfth century A D ,<sup>2</sup> and in the following year, 1874, two more inscriptions, one on stone, from the Pálmú Báoh in the Delhi District,<sup>3</sup> of the thirteenth century, and another far more important one, on a copperplate, of the time of Chandragupta in the fourth century, discovered by General Cunningham at Indor near Annpshahar on the Ganges <sup>4</sup> Another copper land grant found near Chittagong, of the thirteenth century, was made known by Bahu Prannáth Pandit <sup>5</sup> Dr Wise noticed some Muhammadan antiquities about Sanaigaon in Eastern Bengal,<sup>6</sup> and Colonel E T Dalton, a large Muhammadan picture, representing the conquest of Palaman in 1660 by Daud Khán, Aurangzib's General <sup>7</sup>

The temple ruins of Assam a subject which, though well worthy of research, had been neglected since 1855 was now taken up again by Major H H Godwin-Austen, who described the ruins at Dinápur,<sup>8</sup> and Mr J M Foster, who described those at Jayaságar <sup>9</sup> In 1875, Mr E. Vesey Westmacott noticed an inscribed pillar and other traces of Buddhism in Dinápur and Bagma <sup>10</sup> He also published a copper land grant of Lakhsman Sen found in a small tank at the former place <sup>11</sup> Mr F S Growse published some Bacchanahan sculptures which had been found in Mathurá in 1836, hitherto considered to be Grecian, but which he thought might be Buddhist or Brahmanic <sup>12</sup> He

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XLVI, p 179    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLII p 314    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLIII p 104    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid* p 363    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid* p 318    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 82    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 240    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p 1    <sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p 311    <sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLIV, p 187    <sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, p 1    <sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLV, p 212

afterwards, in 1878, 1879 and 1883, followed up his researches by exhaustive notes on the antiquities of Mathurá and Bulandshahar.<sup>1</sup> In the volume for 1877, Babu Chandiasekhara Banurji also noticed some of the antiquities met with in the Kaimur Range;<sup>2</sup> and Babu Rangalála Banerji made known an important copper land grant, found in the Record Office of Katak, of the Kalunga prince Yayáti during the reign of Siva Gupta,<sup>3</sup> while Babu Pratapa Chandra Ghosha published another copper land grant (on three plates) of the same early period, dug out in the Tributary State of Patna in the Sambalpur District.<sup>4</sup> In 1878, three copper land grants of the Chandel Rájás were brought to notice by Dr. Rájendralála Mitra and Mr. V. A. Smith.<sup>5</sup> The latter followed this up in 1879, in conjunction with Mr. F. C. Black, by descriptions of some Chandel antiquities at Khajráho and Mahoba, which had not been fully noticed by General Cunningham in his *Archæological Survey Reports*.<sup>6</sup> In 1880, Major Jarrett noticed a small Persian inscription found upon a stone lying near the ruins of a mosque on Lanka Island in the Wular Lake in Kashmir, of the time of Sultan Zayn-úl-A'ábidin;<sup>7</sup> and Mr. H. Rivett - Carnac contributed some account of so-called "spindle whorls" and votive seals found at Sankisa, Behar, and other Buddhist ruins in the North-Western Provinces of India.<sup>8</sup>

In the following year, 1881, General A. Cunningham commenced a valuable series of descriptions of ancient Persian relics in gold, silver, and copper, mostly belonging to a large treasure found in 1877, on the north bank of the

<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol XLVII, p 97, Vol XLVIII, p 270, and Vol LII, p 275

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLVI, p 16

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 149

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 173

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*,

Vol XLVII, pp 73, 80

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLVIII, p 285

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLIX, p 16

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p 127

Onus, near the town of 'Tahlt-i-Kuwat.<sup>1</sup> He continued it in two memoirs in the volume for 1883.<sup>2</sup> In 1882, Mr P. N. Bose reported the discovery by him of some earthen pots found in an ancient well at Mahesvara, similar to those found in the ancient town of Behat.<sup>3</sup> Dr. Rajendralala Mitra followed, in 1883, with a notice of a stone inscription of the fifteenth century found in the old Fort of Deogah in the Lalitpur District,<sup>4</sup> and with an exhaustive description of the temples of Deogah in the Sindhia Pergunnahs.<sup>5</sup> The last year of the Society's century closes with the account, by Mr R. Roskell Bayne, of the discovery of the very modern, though in some respects not the least interesting, remains of portions of the Old Fort William in Calcutta, as it existed towards the end of the last century.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol I, p 151    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol LII pp 64, and 258    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol LI, p 226    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol LII p 67    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p 161    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 105





pally from duplicates presented by the Government of Bengal, from the late Colonel Mackenzie's collection. From these, aided by a few others, Professor H. H. Wilson prepared an account of select Hindu coins in the Society's Cabinet in 1831<sup>1</sup>. The author was assisted in this undertaking by Mr J Prinsep, and the zealous interest which the latter thus learned to take in the subject of Indian numismatics did not cease with the occasion, and the continuance of his labours not only, but the stimulation of a similar interest in other parts of India, may be considered as the most important consequence of the publication of the paper in question<sup>2</sup>. The first fruits of Mr J Prinsep's new interest in coins was a description, in 1832, of the "Ancient Roman Coins in the Cabinet of the Asiatic Society,"<sup>3</sup> and in 1833, of the Greek coins in the same Cabinet<sup>4</sup>.

Not long before, in 1830, General Ventura had excavated the celebrated Manikyála Tope, in which he had found a number of unknown curious coins, now known as Indo-Scythian. In the beginning of 1832, Lieutenant Burnes, on his way to Bokhara, visited Manikyála and inspected General Ventura's operations. The Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins which he found on that occasion were described by Mr. J Prinsep in 1833, together with some others with which he had been supplied,<sup>5</sup> and it may be noted that on one of the former the now well-known name of Kanerkes was for the first time distinctly legible. To his description Mr J Prinsep added some remarks on the historical bearings of the coins, and some speculations as to the appropriations of such as were least known.

<sup>1</sup> *As. Res.*, Vol. XVII, p. 560<sup>2</sup> See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 8<sup>3</sup> *J. A. S. B.*,

Vol. I, p. 392

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 27<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 310

He little anticipated at that time the extent to which materials were about to pour in upon him, or the important conclusions which he was consequently enabled to establish or suggest. Only two months later, in the same year, he was enabled to publish a description and engravings of eighteen coins, Bactrian and Hindu, chiefly from the collection of Dr. Swiney, amongst which were now made known, for the first time, some of the drachmae, no doubt spoken of by Arrian, those of Menander and Apollodotus. Some other coins, since known to belong to Indo-Scythic and Hindu princes, were also now, for the first time, delineated and described.<sup>1</sup>

An accession of unexpected extent was soon after, in 1834, made through Mr. Masson's explorations of the ancient topes in Afghanistan, especially at a place named Beggram, of which an account was communicated to the public through the *Journal*.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Masson continued his researches about Beggram during the four succeeding years, and collected in this interval above thirty thousand coins. A further account of these operations is given in the *Journal* for 1836.<sup>3</sup> Among the coins discovered by him are not only new ones of Greek princes already known, but also those of several whose names are not mentioned in history, as Antialkides, Lysias, Agathocles, Archebias, Pantaleon, and Hermæus. He also found the coins of the king whose titles only are specified as the Great King of Kings, the Preserver, and of others whose names, although assuming a Greek form, indisputably denote barbaric or Indo-Scythic princes—Undopheires, Azes, Azilises, Kadphises, and Kanerkes. The first great step in the series of

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol II, pp 37, 405 See *Ariana Antiqua*, pp 9 10 \* J A S B, Vol III p 153 See *Ariana Antiqua*, p 10 <sup>2</sup> J A S B, Vol V, p 1 See *Ariana Antiqua* p 11

Bactrian numismatic discovery was thus accomplished, and the great object of later investigations became only to complete and extend the structure, of which such broad foundations had been laid <sup>1</sup>

In consequence of a remark made by Mr J. Prinsep in the previous volume of the Journal,<sup>2</sup> intimating the hope that a more precise account of General Ventura's discoveries might be published in its pages, which remark was communicated to that officer, he immediately, with the most disinterested liberality, placed his collection at the disposal of Mr. Prinsep. The latter, in the Journal for 1834, devoted two memoirs to the description of the General's collection <sup>3</sup> The coins were Sassanian and Indo-Scythic. The former added to their usual characteristic types and legends the peculiarity of a Nágari inscription, which, though then unintelligible, was afterwards, in 1838, deciphered by Mr. Prinsep in its entirety as referring to Persian princes, though of unknown and uncertain appellations <sup>4</sup> The Indo-Scythic coins were of the Kanerkes type, and, by comparison with some of the same kind sent by others, the legends on them, written in a barbarised form of Greek, were completely read by Mr Prinsep.<sup>5</sup> In the same Journal the latter also described some coins found by Captain (afterwards General) Court in another tope at Mamkyála, which he had opened himself,<sup>6</sup> a description which, in one point, was corrected by Lieutenant (now Major-General) A. Cunningham.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Ariana Antiqua*, p 12    <sup>2</sup> J A S B, Vol. II p 308    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol III, pp 313, 436    See *Ariana Antiqua*, p 13    <sup>4</sup> J A S B, Vol VII p 418    <sup>5</sup> See *Ariana Antiqua*, p 14    <sup>6</sup> J A S B, Vol. III p 562    See also Captain Court's *Memoir*, *ibid*, p 556    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 635    See, however, *Journal des Savants*, February, 1836, p 71, and *Ariana Antiqua*, p 15

The interest excited by the coins and relics of the Panjab and the districts beyond the Indus, stimulated persons less favourably circumstanced than the officers of Ranjit Singh to look around them for such remains of past times as India Proper might afford; and the search was not in vain. A curious discovery was made in 1833, by Captain Cautley, of the site of an ancient town near Behat in the Doab, which was seventeen feet below the surface of the soil.<sup>1</sup> It was laid bare in clearing out the bed of a canal, and, amongst other relics, a number of coins were found.<sup>2</sup> These were engraved and described by Mr. Pimsep in the *Journal* for 1834; some were rude specimens of Indo-Scythic coins, but others formed a new series distinguished by peculiar types and ancient Sanskrit characters.<sup>3</sup> Their publication soon produced others of a similar description. Two procured at Clutore were sent by Major Stacy; others were obtained by Lieutenant Conolly at Kanaug, and several were comprised in the Cabinet of Dr Swiney. These were also described and delineated by Mr. Pimsep, who pointed out that the inscriptions on them were in the ancient Indian Pali alphabet.<sup>4</sup> Three years later, in 1837, after having discovered the key to that alphabet, he deciphered the inscriptions, when sufficiently distinct. From other specimens, since found in better preservation, it is now known that they belonged to ancient Hindu princes (Mitras, Dattas, Devas, Kunindas, Yaudheyanas), who, as shown by the symbols on the coins, professed the Buddhist faith, and who must have belonged to a period when Buddhism prevailed in Upper Hindustan.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 43. See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 16. <sup>2</sup> J. A. S. B., p. 221.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 227. <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 431, 433. See *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 16. <sup>5</sup> See

J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, p. 463, Vol. VII, pp. 1047, 1052.





assuming Buddhist symbols, they were probably struck in the monasteries of the period. Those which offer imitations of the Indo-Scythic coins, of course followed the establishment of the princes of that nation. In a better style the type of the coins of these princes was also repeated on those of the Gupta princes of Kanauj, and the latter again became the prototypes of the later coins of the various Rajput dynasties down to the time of the Muhammadan conquest.<sup>1</sup>

While prosecuting his comparative researches in Indian numismatics, Mr. Prinsep did not neglect his examination of the Bactrian coins with which he had been so abundantly supplied by Mr. Masson and others. In 1836 he published two memoirs on new varieties of these coins which he had discovered, and from which he brought to light the names of several new princes, among them Archebius, Amyntas, and the Queen Agathokleia.<sup>2</sup> Another and no less curious series of coins, however, which were being found in Samarkand, and of which a few detached specimens only had been before published, also attracted Mr. Prinsep's attention at this time (1834). He noticed that they were imitations of Bactrian coins,<sup>3</sup> but the legends on them, which were to him at first unintelligible, he only succeeded in deciphering two years later, in 1836, as written in an ancient form of Nāgarī and referring to a dynasty of rulers which, as shown afterwards, bore the title of Kshatrapa (Satrap), and of which eleven descents could be made out from the coins. At the same time the first discovery was made, which was amply confirmed afterwards, that these coins were dated in an ancient form of the Nāgarī numerals.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See *Ariana Antiqua*, pp. 20, 21.      <sup>2</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. V, pp. 348, 720.      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, p. 684.      <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 377, Vol. VII, pp. 347, 348.



On the departure of Mr. Prinsep from India in November 1838, his researches into the Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins were zealously continued by Captain (now Major-General) Alexander Cunningham, who all along had been the trusty coadjutor of Mr. Prinsep in his investigations.<sup>1</sup> His results Captain Cunningham communicated to the Society in 1840, 1842 and 1845, in three notices of some new Bactrian coins. In these he had the satisfaction of being able to add no less than nine new names to the already long list of Bactrian sovereigns; of which seven were pure Greek, and the other two genuine Parthian.<sup>2</sup> In a fourth notice on the same subject, in 1840, he described a number of Bactrian and Sassanian coins found by Captain Hay at Bamerau.<sup>3</sup> The extensive demand for Bactrian coins, engendered by the eager interest widely taken in them consequent upon the researches of the Numismatists, led to the natural, though undesirable, result of attempts, made chiefly by native workmen, to supply it by means of forgeries. The experienced eye of Captain A. Cunningham, however, at once discovered them; and in two notices on counterfeit Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins, he supplied the unwary collector with the much needed information.<sup>4</sup>

These two classes of coins, together with the Surashtrian and Sassanian, had hitherto concentrated on themselves the almost undivided attention of those engaged in Indian numismatic research. This was natural; for being the most ancient as well as the most obscure, they naturally offered the widest and most promising field for discoveries. But the harvest now began to grow exhausted, and the eyes

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol V, p 652      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IX, Pt I, pp 867, 1008, and Vol XI, Pt I, p 130, Vol XIV, Pt I, p 430      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IX, Pt I, pp 63, 70, 531  
<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 393, Pt II, p 1217

of the inquisitive began to turn in other directions. Still there were gleanings to be made, as fresh coins of those classes were constantly being found in various places. Thus Mr. Laidlay noticed, in 1848, eight Indo-Scythian gold coins found at Kussarava in the Munger District,<sup>1</sup> and Captain (now General) James Abbott, in 1853, a few Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins, got from their old well-known find-place, the neighbourhood of Manikyali,<sup>2</sup> while Mr E. Thomas, in 1851, contributed a description of a curious new coin of the Sassanian type.<sup>3</sup> The most important later finds, however, were a silver coin of a new Bactrian king, Plato the Illustrious, reported by Mr J. Delmerick in 1872,<sup>4</sup> and a deposit of twenty Indo-Scythian and Roman gold coins, excavated by Mr W. Simpson from the Ahm Pash Tope at Jalálahád and described by the writer of this Review in the 'Proceedings' for 1879.<sup>5</sup> A small hoard of ten Surashtrian coins, found near Chhindwára in 1882 by Mr J. W. Tawney, may also be noticed.<sup>6</sup>

About this time an altogether different field, that of the Muhammadan coins of India, comes, for the first time, prominently into view. Some indications of this field had already been given by Mr Prinsep<sup>7</sup> and the Hon'ble H. T. Colebrooke, the latter of whom described, in 1841, "a quantity of coins of the Musalman kings of Bengal found at Howrah," and presented to the Society by Mr. H. R. Torrens.<sup>8</sup> The latter species of coins, though now not uncommon, were in those days of such rarity that it was far easier to procure the coins of Alexander or his

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XVII Part I, p. 454.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, p. 573. See also *ibid.*, Vol. XX, p. 137.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XX, p. 525.    <sup>4</sup> Proceedings for 1872, pp. 34, 174.    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, for 1879, pp. 77, 122, 210.    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, for 1882, p. 114, see also p. 41.    <sup>7</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, pp. 679, 680.    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, Part I, p. 108.

successors in Bactria, than those of the Sultans of Bengal.<sup>1</sup> The Bengal coins of the Society's Cabinet, together with others which were in his own possession, received a careful examination at the hands of Mr. Laidlay, the result of which he communicated in the *Journal* for 1846, and by which he succeeded in throwing considerable light on the history of the independent kings of Bengal, until then very little known. The series of these kings he succeeded in tracing by the help of the coins, with tolerable continuity, from the first independent Sultan, Ilyás Sháh, down to the last Mahmúd Sháh, with whom the independence of the kingdom of Bengal was extinguished.<sup>2</sup> After Mr. Laidlay's first attempt, the subject of the Bengal coins remained entirely unnoticed till, upwards of twenty years afterwards, in 1867, when, as will be shown below, it was taken up in right earnest by Mr E. Thomas and Mr. H Blochmann, owing to the happy discovery of an extraordinary large hoard of Bengal coins.

In the meanwhile, investigations of no less interest and with equally important results were carried on in other, as yet almost, if not quite, untrodden fields of numismatic research. Thus, in 1846, the first information and delineation of the comparatively modern coins of Arakan of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was supplied by Captain (now General Sir) A. P. Phayre;<sup>3</sup> and at the same time it was supplemented by Lieutenant Thomas Latter by a description and delineation of another species of Arakan coins, bearing ancient Nágari characters which he did not recognize,<sup>4</sup> but which were afterwards, in 1872, shown by Captain (now Colonel) G. E. Fryer to be coins of an ancient

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XV p 324<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 323<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 232<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*,

Arakanese dynasty of the eighth and ninth centuries, A. D. ;<sup>1</sup> a conclusion which, in 1878 and 1880, was confirmed by Dr. Rájendrakála Mitra from a new find of similar coins.<sup>2</sup>

In 1852, Mr. E. Thomas, who had already successfully investigated the coins of the kings of Ghazni from the specimens in Mr. Masson's large collection,<sup>3</sup> contributed another no less valuable memoir on that subject in the pages of the Society's Journal, based on the Ghazni coins in Colonel Stacy's Cabinet. It described coins belonging to six sovereigns, including Subaktigin, Ismael, Mahmúd, Mas'áúd, Múhid, and Ibráhím; it incidentally also noticed a curious coin of the Rájpút Bull and Horseman type inscribed with 'Mas'áúd,' the name of one of these sovereigns.<sup>4</sup> In connection with this subject it may be mentioned that, in the year before, 1851, Mr. E. Thomas had published descriptions and delineations of eight specimens of Central Asiatic Kufic coinages of various dates and kingdoms.<sup>5</sup> A few years later, in 1855, he contributed a valuable memoir on a very different, as well as much more ancient, and for Indian history much more important, class of coins, those known by the name of the Gupta dynasty, of which two principal species had been met with, one in gold, the other in silver. These coins had already been noticed by Mr. J. Prinsep and correctly appropriated by him, though he was unable to read the legends on the second species of them.<sup>6</sup> Since his time coins of this class were repeatedly found in various places, and occasionally noticed in the Journal. Thus, in 1852, Major M.

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XLI, Part I, p. 201.    <sup>2</sup> Proceedings for 1878, pp. 102, 103,

and for 1880, pp. 51, 54.    <sup>3</sup> See Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society for 1848.

<sup>4</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXI, p. 115. See also a later notice by Mr. C. J. Rodgers, in Proceedings for 1879, p. 78, and for 1881, p. 4.    <sup>5</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XX, p. 537.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 230, and Vol. IV, p. 687.

Kittoe brought to notice a large hoard found at Benares, of which some were described and figured by Mr. (now Sir) E. C. Bayley;<sup>1</sup> and in the same year, Dr. Rájendralála Mitra described and delineated three curious coins found at Muhammadpur in the Jessore District, among which, however, only one is probably to be classed as a Gupta coin, while another is now known to belong to the Susanka series, and the third is a South Indian coin.<sup>2</sup> In the memoir of 1855, already alluded to, Mr. E. Thomas, who had the advantage of examining all these coins together with others in Colonel Stacy's and his own possession, successfully brought together and systematised all that had hitherto been ascertained regarding the gold and silver currency of the Guptas, adding at the same time much new information, especially with regard to their silver coinage.<sup>3</sup> Another class of coins, more ancient and hardly less important than those of the Guptas, but having their affinities rather with the Indo-Scythian coins, was brought to notice about the same time, in the *Journal* of 1854, by Major A. Cunningham. These are the so-called coins of the Indian Buddhist Satraps, of Mahāgala, Jivamśa, and Rájabala, the peculiarity of which is that they exhibit for the first time pure Hindu names written in Greek characters. They are of the highest interest and value for the elucidation of Indian history just before the Christian era, as they afford a sure guide to the religious and political state of India at that particular period.<sup>4</sup>

At this time a long pause occurred; during the next ten years, from 1855 to 1864, the *Journal* contains not

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<sup>1</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. XXI, pp. 390, 392      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXI, p. 401      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIV, p. 483      For some later notices of finds of Gupta coins of well known types, see *Proceedings* for 1878, p. 191, for 1879, p. 174, for 1881, p. 39, for 1882, p. 112      <sup>4</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. XXIII, p. 679

a single numismatic contribution. But though there was no outward manifestation, the work of enquiring into the coinages of India was carried on with undiminished zeal, in the study and in the field. The first fruit of this laborious though quiet research was the publication by Mr. E. Thomas, in the *Journal* for 1864 and 1865, of three learned memoirs on "ancient Indian weights."<sup>1</sup> The substance of these memoirs had been originally prepared by him for insertion in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, but as a large proportion of their contents proved, in the progress of the enquiry, to relate to questions beyond the legitimate scope of that *Journal*, they were, in a revised and amplified form, published in the *Society's Transactions*. The attention of archæologists had, just then, been attracted to the weights and measures of ancient nations, by the elaborate work of M. Queipo, and the less voluminous but more directly interesting article of Mr. R. S. Poole (in *Smith's Dictionary of the Bible*) on the Babylonian and other early metrologies. Mr. E. Thomas's memoirs on the system of the ancient Indian weights is not the least valuable contribution to this enquiry. For "that system, in its local development, though necessarily possessing a minor claim upon the consideration of the European world, may well maintain a leading position in the general investigation, on the ground of its primitive and independent organization, and the very ancient date at which its terms were embodied and defined in writing; while to numismatists it offers the exceptional interest of possessing extant equivalents of the specified weights given in the archaic documentary record which Sâkshi literature has preserved in the text of the original Code of the Hindûs."

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIII, p. 251, Vol. XXXIV, pp. 14, 51

In the course of his memoirs, the author proves the very early date of the employment of coined money in India, the earliest representatives of which were the so-called "punch-coins," already referred to in connection with the Behat discovery. These were "flat pieces of metal, some round, some square or oblong, adjusted with considerable accuracy to a fixed weight and usually of an uniform purity, seemingly verified and stamped anew with distinctive symbols by succeeding generations, which clearly represented an effective currency long before the ultimate date of the engrossment of the Laws of Manu."<sup>1</sup> These pieces may still be found all over Northern India in unusual numbers, though mostly in silver, while their more perishable and less esteemed copper equivalents are of very rare occurrence. Their appearance may be judged from the delineations on the two plates which accompany Mr Thomas's memoirs.<sup>2</sup> At a later date the ancient Indian coinage shows distinct traces of Greek influence; notably in the case of the Surashtrian and Gupta coins.

Another class of coins of this type, though preserving more of a distinctively Indian character, was brought to notice by Major-General A. Cunningham, at the same time that Mr. Thomas's memoir on the earliest currency appeared. In the *Journal* for 1865, he described and delineated coins, mostly of great rarity, of three different dynasties which anciently held sway in Nalwar and Gwalior, and the earliest of which, that of the so-called "nine Nāgas," was contemporary with the Guptas, in the second century of the Christian era.<sup>3</sup> To the same type belong the coins of the Sunga or Mitra dynasty, which reigned in north Panchala, the modern Rohilkhand, and, like the Nāgas,

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol. XXXIV, p 15<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Plates 15 and 16.<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 115

was contemporary with the great Guptas. Colonel Stacy's specimens of their coins, as well as of those of the Nāgas, had been already noticed by Mr. J. Prinsep,<sup>1</sup> as long ago as 1837, since when little or nothing had been added to their knowledge. But, in 1879, Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac was so fortunate as to procure a considerable number and variety of them from the ruined site of the ancient town of Alchihatia. They were placed by him in the hands of Mr. A. C. Carileyle, who published a careful description and delineation of them in the *Journal* for 1880.<sup>2</sup> Later, in the same volume, Mr. Rivett-Carnac himself gave a large number of additional delineations of Mitra coins and others similar to them.<sup>3</sup> A few years previously, in 1873, the Hon'ble E. C. Bayley had published two other coins of the same class, found on the site of the ancient city of Kansambhi,<sup>4</sup> and in 1875 Dr. Rājendralāla Mitra contributed some further elucidation of another well-known and often described kind of coin of the same type, that of Kumanda, of which a new specimen had been found at Karnal.<sup>5</sup> Two curious gold coins, of unknown attribution, but probably belonging to the same class, were described and delineated by the writer of this Review in 1881 and 1882.<sup>6</sup>

These were but gleanings on the field of the earlier Hindu coinages of India — a field which now, after the long continued and searching labours of General Cunningham and his co-workers, appears rapidly to become exhausted. But there was still a field on which,

<sup>1</sup> See *J. A. S. B.* Vol. VI, pp. 297, 298.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIX, p. 21.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIX, pp. 87, 138. See also, for a later find, *Proceedings* for 1881, p. 64.  
<sup>4</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. XLII, pp. 109, 191.    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIV, p. 82. See also Mr. Thomas's *Description and Delineation* in Vol. XXXIV, p. 65.    <sup>6</sup> *Proceedings* for 1881, pp. 19, 138, and for 1882, pp. 91, 194.



though much had been already done, there remained yet very much more to be done by those of a later day, who took an interest in the numismatics of India. This field comprised the varied and, some of them, extensive classes of Muhammadan coins—the imperial coinage of Delhi as well as the provincial ones of Bengal, Gujarât, Malwa, and others. It included also the later Hindu coins of Kashmir, Kangia, &c., contemporary with, and subsequent to, the Muhammadan conquest. Here again, after a preliminary publication, in 1864, of a catalogue and delineations of Muhammadan coins current in the bazars of the Gujarat District in 1859, the experienced numismatist, Mr. E. Thomas, some of whose valuable contributions on a similar subject have been already noticed, took the lead. It was a remarkable discovery which afforded the occasion. In 1863, an extraordinarily large hoard of coins, numbering in all no less than 13,500 pieces of silver, was found in Cooch Bihar, in Northern Bengal. The autumnal fall of a river bank, not far removed from the traditional capital of Kamteswar Râja, a king of mark in provincial annals, disclosed to modern eyes the hidden treasure of some credulous mortal who, in olden time, entrusted his wealth to the keeping of an alluvial soil, carefully stored and secured in brass vessels specially constructed for the purpose, but destined to contribute undesignedly to an alien inheritance, and a disentanglement at a period much posterior to that contemplated by its depositor. This accumulation, so singular in its numerical amount, is not less remarkable on account of its component elements, all the coins being, with a very few exceptions of imperial coins of Delhi, the unmingled produce of the provincial mints of Bengal, and embracing the records of no more than ten kings, ten mint cities, and one hundred and seven years up to the end of the fourteenth

century. From this great store careful selections were made by Dr. Rájendralál Mitra for the Calcutta Mint, the Asiatic Society and Colonel C. S. Guthrie,<sup>1</sup> and these selections afforded to Mr Thomas the leading materials for his invaluable monograph on "The Initial Coinage of Bengal," which was first published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland,<sup>2</sup> and afterwards in 1867 reprinted in the pages of the Journal of this Society.<sup>3</sup> After an introductory exposition of the Muhammadan system of coinage, the monograph proceeds to describe and delineate the coins of ten Bengal sovereigns, beginning with Ruknuddin Kai Kaus, and ending with Ghiyásuddín, 'Azam Sháh, noticing at the same time the imperial coins of Násruddín Mahmúd Sháh and of Jalálatuddín Ríziyah.

A careful examination of these coins enabled the author to throw considerable light on the hitherto little or obscurely known history of the early Muhammadan occupation of Bengal, extending over a century and a half. There still, however, remained much to be cleared up, especially regarding the course of events during those frequent rebellions to which the Governors of Bengal were tempted by the remoteness of their province from the centre of the empire. One of these residual obscurities, relating to the rebellion of the Bengal Governor, Ghiyásuddín 'Iwáz, Mr Thomas himself was able to clear up some years later, owing to the discovery, near the fort of Bihár, of thirty-seven coins, among which were some of Ghiyásuddín, and others of the contemporary Delhi Emperor, Altamsh. Regarding these Mr Thomas contributed to the Journal of 1873 a supplementary memoir

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol XXXIII p 480    <sup>2</sup> See Journal, R A S, Vol II, p 1, (N S)    <sup>3</sup> J A S B, Vol XXXVI, p 1

Fírúz Sháh Zafar;<sup>1</sup> in 1873, he made known a unique gold coin of the usurper, Násiruddín Khusráw;<sup>2</sup> in 1876, the Rev. Mr. Carleton published an unique gold coin of Násiruddín Mahmúd Sháh;<sup>3</sup> in 1878, Mr. H. Blochman, an unique gold coin of Jalal-uddín Fírúz Sháh II;<sup>4</sup> in 1881, Mr. J. G. Delmerick, an unique silver coin of Shamsuddín Kaimurs;<sup>5</sup> and in 1880, Dr. C. R. Stulpnagel added a few new coins struck in the joint names of Ghiyásuddín and Muizzuddín bin Sâm.<sup>6</sup> Mr. J. G. Delmerick, the same whose contribution of two supplementary Bengal coins has already been noted, also contributed descriptions and delineations of some new and rare Pathans in the Journals for 1874, 1875 and 1876.<sup>7</sup> In his second and third papers also occur the first more detailed notices, ever published in the Journal, of some of the Muhammadan provincial coinages, those of Jaunpur,<sup>8</sup> Malwa, Kulbarga, and Kashmir, as well as of coins of the Mogul Empire.<sup>9</sup> The researches into some of these provincial coins were pursued more especially by Mr. C. J. Rodgers, who has been just mentioned in connection with the Pathan coins. The Journals for 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1883 contain several valuable memoirs from him, on the coins of Akbar,<sup>10</sup> those of the Sultans and Mahárájas of Kashmir<sup>11</sup> and Kángra,<sup>12</sup> and those of the Sikhs.<sup>13</sup> The subject of the provincial coins of South India was, about the same time, taken up by Dr. G. Bidie, who contributed to

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XL, p. 160    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XLII, p. 311    <sup>3</sup> Proceedings for 1876, p. 91    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, for 1878, p. 64    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, for 1881, p. 157    <sup>6</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XLIX, p. 29    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XLIII, p. 97, Vol. XLIV, p. 126, Vol. XLV, p. 291    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XLIV, p. 126    See also Proceedings for 1881, pp. 40, 41    <sup>9</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XLV, p. 292    See also Proceedings for 1869, p. 266    <sup>10</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XLIX, p. 213, Vol. LII, p. 97.    <sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XLVIII, pp. 277, 282    <sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XLIX, p. 10    <sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. L, p. 71

the Journal for 1883 a short monograph on the so-called Pagoda or Varáha coins <sup>1</sup>

The last two contributions in the pages of the Society's Journal refer to countries beyond the confines of India proper. These are a memoir by Major W F Prideaux on the "Coins of Charibael, King of the Homenites and Sabaeans,"<sup>2</sup> and two others by Major-General A Cunningham on "Relics of Ancient Persia in Gold, Silver, and Copper," in which, among other relics, he describes and delineates a large number of coins of Persian kings and satraps and of Greek kings and cities, discovered in 1877 on the north bank of the Oxus. Thus, with the close of the century, the researches in Indian numismatics, as represented in the Society's Journal, after having gradually brought the whole extent of India proper within their purview, returned once more to the earliest field of then enquiry beyond the Western frontiers of modern India

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol LII, p 33.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol L, pp 95, 151, and Vol LII, p 64

## CHAPTER III.

## ANCIENT INDIAN ALPHABETS

[Indian Pali characters the Kutila, the Gupta, the Asoka—Arian Pali characters]

THE most interesting and important period of the Society's activity with regard to the reading and translation of Ancient Inscriptions lies between the years 1834 and 1839, and is mainly connected with the name of Mr. James Prinsep, the Society's secretary at that time. Within the short space of those few years, and through the labours, in the main, of *one* man, those great discoveries were made which form the foundation of our knowledge of the ancient art of writing, language, and history of India.

The modern Devanāgarī characters are now known to have passed, roughly speaking, through three previous stages of development,—the Kutila, the Gupta, and the Asoka. The last two are named, respectively, after the Gupta kings (between the 2nd and 4th centuries, A.D.), and king Asoka (in the 3rd century, B.C.); the first name is descriptive ('curved'), and was first noticed by Mr. J. Prinsep in an inscription from the Bareilly District<sup>1</sup>. The characters named Kutila very closely resemble the modern Devanāgarī, and inscriptions written in them offered no very great

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, p 779 (verse 36).

difficulty to the early decipherers. As early as 1785, Charles Wilkins published a transcript and translation of the Kutila inscription on the well-known Pillar at Buddal. In a letter dated 14th July, 1785, he thus refers to it: "I have lately been so fortunate as to decipher the character, and I have the honour to lay before the Society a transcript of the original in the modern writing, and a translation, and at the same time to exhibit the two impressions I took from the stone itself"<sup>1</sup>. About the same time Pandit Radha Kanta Saini communicated a translation of the Kutila inscription of Visala Deva on the famous Iron Pillar in Delhi,<sup>2</sup> which, about 1801, was retranslated and revised by Mr. Henry Colebrooke<sup>3</sup>.

The Gupta characters, the general appearance of which differs not inconsiderably both from the Kutila and the modern Nāgarī, offered a much more serious difficulty. Yet about the same time the ingenuity of Mr. Charles Wilkins succeeded also in overcoming the difficulties of these peculiar characters. In the years 1785-1789, he deciphered and published readings and translations of three of the now well-known short inscriptions of the Varma Kings in the Nāgājūni caves near Buddha-Gaya. In a letter to the secretary, dated 17th March 1785, he says "Having been so fortunate as to make out the whole of the very curious inscription you were so obliging as to lend me, I herewith return it, accompanied by an exact copy, in a reduced size, interlined with each corresponding letter in the modern Devanāgarī character, and also a copy of my translation, which is as literal as the idioms would admit of to be. The character is, undoubtedly, the most ancient of any that have hitherto come under my inspection. It is

<sup>1</sup> *As Res*, Vol I, p 131<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 379<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. VII, p 173



only mismanaged, that not a single word could be made out."<sup>1</sup> Next, though Mr. Wilkins's successful decipherment had furnished a key to the reading of the Gupta characters, it required yet much careful handling of it before it would unlock all the mysteries of that system of writing. Referring to the Gupta inscription on the Pillar of Allahabad, of which he had taken a copy for the Society, Lieutenant P. S. Bunt writes in 1834: "On examining all the eighteen volumes of the Asiatic Researches, I am happy to say I have found, or at least partly found, a key to the character No. 27 in the transcript and interpretation of an ancient inscription at Gaya by Dr. Wilkins.<sup>2</sup> This will evidently serve as a guide by which nearly half of the letters can be made out."<sup>3</sup> What was still wanting, however, was now soon supplied by the joint labours of Captain A. Trevor, Dr. W. H. Mill, and Mr. James Prinsep, who successively and successfully examined and translated some of the most celebrated Gupta inscriptions. Thus, in 1834 Captain Trevor gave a partial translation of the Gupta inscription on the Allahabad Pillar. Dr. Mill in the same year completed it, and, in 1837, added to it a translation of its companion inscription on the Bhutan Pillar.<sup>4</sup> Mr. James Prinsep, in 1837 and 1838, further added a translation of the inscriptions on the pillars at Delhi,<sup>5</sup> Kanham,<sup>6</sup> (Gorakhpur District), Eran (in Bhopal),<sup>7</sup> on the tops of Sanchi<sup>8</sup> and Amaravati,<sup>9</sup> and on the rock of Junagadh.<sup>10</sup> To the names of these three pioneers should be added

<sup>1</sup> I. A. S. B. Vol. VII, p. 629.

<sup>2</sup> This is the term used at that time to designate what are now commonly called the Gupta characters.

<sup>3</sup> As. Res., Vol. I p. 279. <sup>4</sup> I. A. S. B., Vol. III p. 111. <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* p. 118. <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 257ff., and

Vol. VI pp. 1ff. <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. VII pp. 629ff. <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 56ff. <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 633ff.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. VI pp. 175ff. <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 218ff. <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII pp. 357ff.





Prinsep, who in 1831 first suggested the identification, himself pointed out two of the difficulties of it, which lay in the two facts that the names of the Gupta dynasty in the inscription did not accord with those of the Maurya dynasty, and that the capitals of the two dynasties were different, viz., Kanauj and Patna respectively.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Mill strongly supported these objections, adding to them two more, based on the difference of race and religious profession of the two dynasties, the Mauryas being of the Solar race, while the Guptas were of the Lunar race and some of them held the late Sakti form of the Sivante faith.<sup>2</sup> He himself proposed another date, which however erred as much in the opposite direction. Rightly identifying the Gupta dynasty with that mentioned in the Purāṇas, but miscalculating their age from the untrustworthy dates furnished by those pseudo-historical works, he suggested in 1837 the "age of Charlemagne in Europe," in the ninth century A. D., as the probable date of the Guptas and their inscriptions.<sup>3</sup> A similarly erroneous suggestion had been, already in 1831, made by Mr. J. Prinsep, who thought the similarity of the Gupta character with those of Tibet, known to have been brought there from India in the seventh century A. D., might be considered to favour the latter date.<sup>4</sup> In the meanwhile, however, the dated copper-plates from Gujrat were read by Mr. W. H. Wathen in 1835. Their dates and the striking similarity of their characters with those of the Gupta inscription finally led Mr. J. Prinsep to the discovery of the true date, the third century A. D., which he announced in 1838, and illustrated by a comparative table of the successive Indian alphabets.<sup>5</sup>

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J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 115      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 267, and Vol. VI, p. 9      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 12      <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 115      <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, pp. 275, 629

The most important achievement of Mr James Prinsep, however, consists in his great discovery of the value of "the alphabet and the language of those ancient pillars and rock inscriptions which have been," as he says, "the wonder of the learned since the days of Sir William Jones."<sup>1</sup> The characters of these inscriptions are again as widely different from the Gupta characters, as the latter are from the modern Nāgarī.<sup>2</sup> They appear to have been first made known to the Society about 1795 through some short inscriptions from the Ellora caves, forwarded to Sir W. Jones by Sir Charles Ware Mallet. They were submitted to Lieutenant Wilford, whose ingenuity did not fail him in providing a translation. "I have the honour to return," he writes to Sir W. Jones, "the facsimile of the several inscriptions with an explanation of them. I despaired at first of ever being able to decipher them; for as there are no ancient inscriptions in that part of India (Benares), we never had, of course, any opportunity to try our skill and improve our talents in the art of deciphering. However, after many fruitless attempts on our part, we were so fortunate as to find at last an ancient sage, who gave us the key, and produced a book in Sanskrit containing a great many ancient alphabets, formerly in use in different parts of India; this was really a fortunate discovery, which hereafter may be of great service to us."<sup>3</sup> Lieutenant Wilford's 'discovery' appears to have passed unquestioned for many years, for Mr A. Sterling, writing about 1820 on the Khadgani rock inscription, which is in the same character, says. — "A portion of the Ellora and Salsette inscriptions, written in the above character, has been deciphered by the learning and ingenuity of Major Wilford, aided by the discovery of

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, p 452<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 566<sup>3</sup> As Res, Vol V, p 135

a key to the unravelling of ancient inscriptions in the possession of a learned Brahmin: and it is to be regretted that the same has not been further applied to deciphering the Delhi and other characters.<sup>1</sup> Indeed a similar regretful reference to Lieutenant Wilford's discovery of the key was made by Mr. Prinsep himself in 1833, only about a year or two before he discovered the true key.<sup>2</sup> This regret is natural enough, but it can hardly surprise that no further practical application was made of the "learned Brahmin's" key, for it is much to be feared that, as in his other antiquarian researches, in this instance too, Lieutenant Wilford fell a victim to the astuteness of a designing pandit, who traded on his credulity. However that may be, it is certain that his so-called 'discovery' was a thorough delusion, for his texts are entirely imaginary readings of the original, while his translations are entirely imaginary interpretations of the imaginary texts—in unintelligible jargon which is supposed to relate the wanderings of Yudhisthira and the Pandavas through forests and uninhabited places. "They were precluded"—so Lieutenant Wilford conjectures—"by agreement from conversing with mankind. But their friends and relations, Vidura and Vyasa, contrived to convey to them such intelligence and information as they deemed necessary for their safety. Thus they did by writing short and obscure sentences on rocks or stones in the wilderness, and in characters previously agreed upon betwixt them."<sup>3</sup>

Subsequently some more and larger inscriptions in the same character were communicated to the Society, among

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<sup>1</sup> As Res. Vol. XV p. 314.    <sup>2</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. II p. 317.    <sup>3</sup> As Res. Vol. V p. 136. The ascription to the Pandavas seems to have been a common Hindu conceit, for the Delhi Pillar which exhibits the same character is by them supposed to have been Bhim Sen's staff with which he used to grind his *bhang*; see J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 106.

them the celebrated Asoka inscriptions on the pillars of Dehli and Allahabad from Captain J. Hoare. and that on the Khandagiri Rock from Mr. A. Sterling.<sup>1</sup> But, after Lieutenant Wilford's failure. no further attempt was made to read them. and they remained to the European enquirers as great a mystery as they had been for ages to the natives of India. till Mr. J. Prinsep's efforts again brought them into prominent notice. and his genius succeeded in discovering the true key to their decipherment. In 1834. he prevailed on Lieutenant T. S. Burt to procure a good and complete facsimile of the inscription on the Allahabad pillar; and in the same year he received a copy of the inscription on the pillar of Mathiah. and in the following year (1835) one of that on the pillar of Radhiab. both through the assistance of Mr. B. H. Hodgson.<sup>2</sup> On comparing these three inscriptions with that on the Dehli pillar. which had been previously in the Society's possession. with a view to find any other words which might be common either to two or to all of them. Mr. Prinsep was led, as he tells us. "to the most important discovery that all four inscriptions were identically the same."<sup>3</sup> This was. indeed. an important discovery. as it afforded to him a fuller and more trustworthy means of comparing and classifying the symbols of the mysterious alphabet—a task which he had commenced not long before. Mr. A. Stirling. when communicating to the Society his copy of the Khandagiri rock inscription. had thought he could notice "a close resemblance of some of the letters to those of the Greek alphabet." instancing particularly "the Greek *ou. sigma. lambda. chi. delta. epsilon.* and a something closely resembling the figure of the *digamma.*"<sup>4</sup> In doing so however.

<sup>1</sup> As. Res. Vol. VII pp. 175-176; and Vol. XV. p. 312.    <sup>2</sup> J. A. S. B. Vol. III p. 483; and Vol. IV p. 125.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid* Vol. III p. 484, *Ibid*, Vol. IV, p. 126

<sup>4</sup> As. Res. Vol. XV pp. 313-314.

he merely repeated an observation which had occurred to others long before him, as noted by Father Tieffenthaler,<sup>1</sup> who says that those who held the Grecian theory believed that the Delhi pillar had been erected by Alexander the Great; and he adds that "this was an error." But Tieffenthaler's own explanation, that they were partly numerical figures, partly signations of weapons of war, (the record, in fact, being merely a numerical list of arms) was no better than Lieutenant Wilford's so-called discovery.

Curiously enough, the Greek theory received in 1834 what almost seemed to amount to proof from Major (afterwards Colonel) D. L. Stacey, who actually read the Greek word *soter* on two coins bearing an inscription in those unknown characters. Mr. J. Prinsep, however, at once suspected the fallaciousness of this reading, for he remarked that "the apparently Greek letters, when inverted, resembled closely the Delhi character; it would be wrong, therefore, to assume positively that they were Greek."<sup>2</sup> He felt convinced that the resemblance to Greek letters was "entirely accidental, and that the alphabet was really "of the Sanskrit family." It was for the purpose of determining this point that he undertook the trouble of minutely analysing and classifying all the symbols occurring in the Allahabad pillar inscription. Proceeding in this manner, he soon perceived that each radical letter was subject to five principal inflections, the same in all, corresponding in their nature and application with the five vowel marks of the ancient Sanskrit of the Gupta inscriptions which was already

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<sup>1</sup> Description de l'Inde, Part I, p. 129 (French Edition) Mr. J. Prinsep in J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 117, seems to have thought it an original observation of Mr. Stirling's, but the latter himself refers to Tieffenthaler. <sup>2</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 433

well-known at that time His result he exhibited in a well-arranged table showing the letters and their inflections, and thus clearly established his first point, that the letters were Sanskrit and not Greek.<sup>1</sup>

The next point to discover was the power, or signification of these unknown letters, that is, to determine to which of the Sanskrit characters of the well-known Nāgarī system each of the unknown ancient Sanskrit symbols corresponded. The first mode which occurred to him was to count how often each radical symbol of the unknown system and of the modern Nāgar respectively occurred in a page of the ancient inscription and in a page of a modern copy of some well-known Sanskrit work (he took the *Bhakti Kāvya*), and then to compare the numbers thus obtained. The idea, of course, was that those symbols which were found to coincide in frequency in the two lists would prove to possess the same power of signification. Though Mr. Prinsep himself appears to have expected much from this process,<sup>2</sup> it led to no result, and with our present knowledge, it is easy to see that it could not possibly yield any result, the very preliminary conditions of a successful comparison were absent; for, as we now know, the subject-matter of the two writings compared is widely different, and what is more, the language of the inscription is not Sanskrit, but an ancient kind of Prākṛit (Pālī). The next method which Mr. Prinsep tried for the purpose of determining the value of the unknown letters was a much sounder one, and one which did actually lead a long way in the solution of the riddle. He set himself to compare carefully the forms of the unknown letters with those of the Gupta alphabet, the oldest till then known. In this manner he soon discovered

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol III, p 117, plate v, also *ibid*, p 487

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 484

that certain letters of the two alphabets resembled one another, from which he further concluded that in all probability they were identical. And though no doubt some of his identifications ultimately turned out to be erroneous, he was correct in many others, for example, in those referred to by him in the following passage, written in October 1834:—"From the resemblance (of a certain subjoined letter) to the corresponding letter of the Gaya alphabet, I think a strong probability is established that this letter is equivalent to *y* of the Devanāgarī alphabet. The other subjoined letter has a great analogy to the Sanskrit *v*. The letter with which those two are most frequently united may, with equal probability, be set down as equivalent to the Devanāgarī *s*."<sup>2</sup> About the same time, encouraged by the earlier efforts of Mr Prinsep, the Rev. J. Stevenson was induced to take up the same line of enquiry, and succeeded in adding a few more to the list of identified symbols, among them those for *k*, *j*, *th*, *p*, and *b*.<sup>3</sup>

With the help of these identifications attempts were at once made to translate the inscriptions, but with no satisfactory result; partly because the translators were still under the erroneous impression that their language was Sanskrit,<sup>4</sup> partly because of the most important letters some had been wrongly identified (*e g*, *n* as *ι*), while others had not been identified at all (*e g*, *d*). One very striking and most interesting application, however, was made at this stage by Professor Lassen, of Bonn, who, in 1835 or 1836, successfully read the name of Agathocles on a Bactrian coin, inscribed with those ancient symbols.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 485<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 498<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 487, 495<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 723, and Vol. VI, 465



once declared his belief that they were more ancient than the Gupta characters, which at the time were believed to be coeval with the commencement of the Christian era. He thought that this might be proved—"First, by the position the inscription occupied on the Allahabad column as well as on that of Delhi; in both it was the principal, and, as it were, the original inscription, the others being subsequently added, perhaps on some occasion of triumph or visit to the spot. Secondly, the simplicity of the character and the limited number of radicals denoted its priority to the more complicated and refined system afterwards adopted; while, thirdly, the very great rarity of its occurrence on ancient monuments, and the perfect ignorance which prevailed regarding its origin in the earliest Persian historians who mentioned the reign of Ferroz Shah, confirmed its belonging to an epoch beyond the reach of native research."<sup>1</sup> With the exception of the reference to the very great rarity of such inscriptions—for they really occur more frequently than it was known at that time—Mr. Prinsep's reasons still hold good. But the question was finally set at rest, and the truth of his surmise proved by the discovery, made mainly by Mr. Prinsep himself, of the mention in the inscription of the names of certain persons whose place in history was perfectly well ascertained. On applying his key to the pillar inscriptions, he soon discovered in 1837 that they contained edicts promulgated by a certain king called "Piyadasi, the beloved of the gods;"<sup>2</sup> and his discovery was carried a step further by the Hon'ble G. Turnour, who, a little later in the same year, succeeded, from information afforded by the historical works of the Buddhists in Ceylon, in identifying

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol III, p 116

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp 470ff

the Pivadasī of the inscriptions with the Indian king Asoka, a grandson of the well-known Chandīa Gupta, of the Maurya dynasty<sup>1</sup>. In the following year, 1838, Mr. Prinsep crowned this series of discoveries by discovering that king Pivadasī in his edicts mentioned by name several Greek kings. Among them were an Antiochus and a Ptolemy. It is true that Turnour, whose view was adopted by Mr. Prinsep, misled by the inaccurate chronological system of the Ceylonese Buddhist works, fell into an error in calculating Asoka's date, making his long reign of forty-one years to fall at first into the last quarter of the fourth century B C, and afterwards into the second half of the third century B C.,<sup>2</sup> and accordingly identifying the Antiochus of the inscriptions with Antiochus III (the Great of Syria 223-176 B C.)<sup>3</sup> Later investigations have shown that the two names of Antiochus and Ptolemy mentioned in the inscriptions really referred to Antiochus II (Theos of Syria, 263-247 B C.), and Ptolemy III (Philadelphus of Egypt, 281-247 B C.), and that the correct date of Asoka's reign most probably is about 264-223 B C.<sup>4</sup> But, though important as regards strict historical accuracy, after all the correction is too insignificant to detract anything from the honour due to Messrs Prinsep and Turnour for the success of their original discovery.

The opinions of the early enquirers with regard to the language in which these ancient inscriptions were composed went through some curious alternations. The earliest view was that they were expressed in an ancient species of the vernacular of India, or, as we should now say, in a species of ancient Prākṛit (or Pālī). This was the

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, pp 1051ff<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 1057<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VII, p 162<sup>4</sup> See Genl. Cunningham's *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, preface, pp iii, vii

opinion of Lieutenant Wilford, who, writing about the year 1795 on the Ellora inscriptions, which he thought he had deciphered, says:—"They are written in an ancient vernacular dialect, and the characters, though very different from those now in use, are nevertheless derived from the original or primeval Sanskrit, for the elements are the same."<sup>1</sup> Lieutenant Wilford's opinion appears to have been generally acquiesced in, for Mr. A. Stirling, referring to the Khandagiri rock inscription, in 1823, writes:—"The natives of the district can give no explanation whatever on the subject. The Brahmins refer the inscription with shuddering and disgust to the *budh ka amel*, or time when the Buddhist doctrines prevailed. I have in vain also applied to the Jains of the district for an explanation. I cannot, however, divest myself of the notion that the character has some connection with the ancient Prākṛit, and considering that it occurs in a spot for many ages consecrated to the worship of Parasnāth, which the Brahmins are pleased to confound with the Buddhist religion, and that the figure or characteristic mark which appears in company with it (the *swastika*) does, in some sort, seem to identify it with the former worship, I am persuaded that a full explanation is to be looked for only from some of the learned of the Jain sect."<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Stirling's opinion, though based more on conjecture than sound evidence, came really much nearer the truth than he at that time could know; but the discovery of it was not made by a "learned of the Jain sect," but by one of his own nation. Previously, however, the current of the general opinion regarding the language of the inscription underwent, for a time, an entire

<sup>1</sup> As Res, Vol V, p 136

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Vol XV, pp 314 315

change. This may be inferred from a remark of Mr. James Prinsep in 1834.—“It is not yet ascertained whether the language this character expresses is Sanskrit.”<sup>1</sup> The remark, it is true, occurs in an argument directed, not against the Prakrit, but the Greek theory of the inscription, and may therefore be thought not necessarily to exclude the former theory. But in the same year the Sanskrit theory was distinctly put forward by Mr. B. H. Hodgson in a letter addressed to Mr. J. Prinsep.—“When we consider the wide diffusion over all parts of India of these alphabetical signs, we can scarcely doubt their derivation from Devanāgarī, and the inference is equally worthy of attention that the language is Sanskrit.”<sup>2</sup> And in commenting on this communication, Mr. J. Prinsep expressed his acquiescence in Mr. Hodgson’s suggestion.—“The new facts now brought to light will, I hope, tend to facilitate this object (the discovery of the language), and leave little doubt that the alphabet is a modification of Devanāgarī and the language Sanskrit, as suggested by Mr. Hodgson.”<sup>3</sup> Neither were Messrs. Hodgson and Prinsep singular in accepting this view, for it was also held by the Rev. J. Stevenson, on the Bombay side, as is evident from a remark he made in transmitting (in 1834) to Mr. Prinsep the result of his researches into the pillar inscriptions.—“I think the first thirteen letters on the Allahabad stone may, without much difficulty, be read as containing an address, probably to the sun, in pure Sanskrit.”<sup>4</sup>

Of course, this view was at once abandoned, the moment that Mr. Prinsep made his great discovery of the key to the true reading of the ancient character, which left no further doubt that the language was really an old vernacular, a kind

<sup>1</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. VI, p. 116.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, pp. 481, 482.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 187.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 125.

of ancient Prākṛit. Communicating the first correct transcription of the opening sentence of the pillar inscription, after his discovery, Mr. Prinsep says:—"Here we perceive at once that the language is the same as was observed on the Bhilsa fragments"—which had just before furnished him with the 'key,'—"not Sanskrit but the vernacular modification of it, which has been so fortunately preserved for us in the Pāli scriptures of Ceylon and Ava"<sup>1</sup> The last statement is not strictly correct. It is now known that the language of the Asoka inscriptions is not identical with the Pāli of the Southern Buddhists, though it is very closely allied to that language. It cannot be expected, however, that such an intricate point of difference should be recognized at once; and as to the main issue, undoubtedly Mr. Prinsep's discovery was perfectly genuine.

Looking back on the series of discoveries, for which we are thus indebted to his genius, it is impossible not to sympathise heartily with the gratified tone of Mr. Prinsep's words, in which he, in 1837, shortly before he left the shores of India, summed up the results of his original researches. It was a particularly gratifying circumstance which afforded him the occasion of doing so. Some years previously, Colonel W. H. Sykes had forwarded to the Royal Asiatic Society of England a series of copies of inscriptions met with in Western India; but on learning, as he says, "the admirable and efficient use Mr. Prinsep had made in his able journal, of the ancient inscriptions and ancient coins found in various parts of India, he was induced to apply to withdraw all his copies from the hands of the Royal Asiatic Society with a view to offer them to Mr. Prinsep to make such use of as he might think proper."<sup>2</sup> As it happened,

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, p 469

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* p 1038

the copies were not returned from England ; but it was on the occasion of this offer of Colonel Sykes, the honor implied in which deeply touched him, that Mr Prinsep recorded the summary above referred to :—" More than one great question is certainly involved in the solution of the cave inscriptions of Western India. To whom is to be attributed their construction ? From what period have they existed ? In what language and character are the records sculptured ? Unknown to Colonel Sykes, the whole of these questions have been already solved as regards the pillar monuments on this side of India. They are of the third or fourth century anterior of our era ; they are of Buddhist foundation ; and the language is not Sanskrit, but a link between that grammatical idiom and the Páli of the Buddhist scriptures ; and the alphabet appears to be the very prototype of all the Devanágari and Dakshiní alphabets."<sup>1</sup>

Colonel Sykes, in the passage quoted above, speaks of the admirable and efficient use which Mr Prinsep made of ancient coins. This brings us to another great discovery similar to, and hardly less important than, the discovery of the key to the Asoka alphabet—a discovery of which Mr Prinsep at least laid the foundation, though others were destined to carry it to so much of its successful conclusion as has been at present attained.

Contemporaneously with the Asoka alphabet, the successful discovery of the key of which has been above related, another system was also in use in ancient India. This system is now commonly called the Bactrian or Ariau Páli alphabet, to distinguish it from the Lath or Indian Páli. The area in which it flourished was the







reverse) the inscription is in Pehlevi," he proceeds to distinguish the Indo-Scythian coins, and says "on some of them (the coins of Kadphises, which Mr. Prinsep at that time believed to be posterior to those of Kanerki) "we find the same kind of character which appears on the Delhi and Allahabad pillars, the same which is found at Ellora and in many ancient caves and temples of Central India, and is held in abhorrence by Brahmins as belonging to the Buddhist religion."<sup>1</sup> As an instance, he quotes the very coin above referred to, which Colonel Tod had described as having a Sassanian legend, and says:—"what he supposes to be Pehlevi characters on the reverse, I incline to think characters of the Delhi type."<sup>2</sup>

It is clear from this strange discrepancy that at that time Mr Prinsep could not have given much examination to these characters; if he had done so, he could not possibly have failed to recognise that the characters on the two classes of coins, the Bactrian and Indo-Scythian, were identical, and that therefore they must all be either Pehlevi or Nāgarī. Indeed, it is evident from the context in which his remarks occur, that the contradictory view which he then unwittingly held was based not so much on paleographic as on historical grounds. He had rightly enough come to the conclusion, that the Indo-Scythian kings were Buddhists, whence he, though wrongly, inferred that the alphabet they used must be the ancient Nāgarī which he knew to have been used by the Buddhist King Asoka.

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol II, pp 313 and 316 In the latter part of the passage, he in referring to the remarks of Major Wilford in *As Res*, Vol V, p 140, and of Mr A Stirling in *As Res*, Vol XV, p 314 (above quoted, see p 66) <sup>2</sup> J A S. B., Vol II, p 317

About twelve months later, in July 1834, he takes occasion to state once more his view of the Nágari character of the alphabet. General Ventura, in excavating the Manikyála Tope, had found a brass reliquary and a silver disk, both bearing short inscriptions in Ariau Páli characters. Describing the former object he says:—"The character so strongly resembles an ancient form of Nágari, such as might be used in writing, without the head lines of the book-letter, that sanguine hopes may be entertained of its yielding to the already successful efforts of our Vice-President (Rev Dr Mill) and Captain Troyer"<sup>1</sup> And similarly with regard to the silver disk. "The characters are precisely those of the lid of the outer brass cylinder, but their combination is different. There can be little doubt of their affinity to the Sanskrit, but the difficulty of deciphering them is enhanced by the substitution of the written-hand for the perfect Nágari, which it is clearly proved from the coins discovered in the first box to have been known at the same period. The difference is such as is remarked between the Mahájamí and the printed Nágari of the present day."<sup>2</sup>

It is not difficult to read between the lines of this passage the progress which Mr Prinsep, in the meanwhile, had made in his views. It is clear that he had applied himself to the discovery of the key of the new alphabet; on doing so, he had—as indeed could not be otherwise—recognized that the characters on the Bactrian and Indo-Scythian coins were identical, that the theory he had hitherto held regarding them was contradictory and untenable, and that the alphabet must be either wholly Pehlvi or wholly Nágari; lastly

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol III, p 318, compare p 118

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p 319

he had decided in his own mind that it must be wholly Nágari. It should be remembered that just at that time Mr. Prinsep had been successful in proving his own view of the Sanskrit character of the Asoka alphabet against the upholders of the Grecian theory. It cannot surprise us, therefore, to find him similarly favouring a Sanskrit theory of the Arian Páli alphabet in opposition to the Pehlvi theory at that time generally accepted. His idea seems to have been that the Indian Páli and the Arian Páli characters would prove to be merely two forms of the same ancient Nágari alphabet, the former being its *kalligraphic*, the latter its *cursive* form. And it may be assumed, with great probability, that he similarly expected the language expressed by the latter character would prove to be a kind of ancient Prákrit (or Páli). With regard to the letters he was undoubtedly in error, but in his expectation of the language being ancient Prákrit, the event proved him to have been correct.

In the meantime, he soon found reason to abandon his newly conceived Nágari-Prákrit theory altogether in favour of a return to the old theory of the letters and language being some kind of Pehlvi. The first indication of this new change of front appears only six months later, toward the end of 1834. In the course of that year an Arian Páli inscription on a large slab of stone had been discovered in a tope opened by Captain (afterwards General) Court. Referring to this inscription, a copy of which had been sent to Mr. Prinsep, he says, that "it will probably prove to be in the same dialect of the Pehlvi as occurs on the cylinders;" and he adds: "although my progress in deciphering the character in which it is written does not yet enable me to transcribe the whole, still I see very distinctly in the second line the word *Mulika*, 'king,' in the

very same characters that occur on the reverse of so many of the Bactrian coins."<sup>1</sup>

Among the circumstances which induced him to return to the older Pehlevi theory and which at the same time led him to discover the key of the unknown alphabet, one, and that not the least important, was contributed by Mr. Masson, well known through his antiquarian discoveries in Afghanistan. They are thus related by himself in 1835. After mentioning that he had received three large collections of Bactrian coins belonging to Shekh Keramat Ali, Dr. Gerand and General Ventura, he proceeds to say. "The careful examination of the whole (of these collections) has furnished me a clue to the Bactrian form (if we may so call it) of the Pehlevi character, which is found on the reverse of many of these coins; and it will better enable us to describe them, if we begin by explaining what we have been able to make of the alphabet of this native language, which, from its marked difference from other types of the same character, I have ventured to term the Bactrian Pehlevi. Mr. Masson first pointed out, in a note addressed to myself through the late Dr. Gerand, the Pehlevi signs, which he had found to stand for the words *Menandrou*, *Apollodotou*, *Ermaïou*, *Basiteos* and *Soteros*. When a supply of coins came into my hands, sufficiently legible to pursue the enquiry, I soon verified the accuracy of his observation; found the same signs, with slight variation, constantly to recur, and extended the series of words thus authenticated to the names of twelve kings, and to six titles or epithets. It immediately struck me, that if the genuine Greek names were faithfully expressed in the unknown character, a clue would, through them, be

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, pp. 557, 563

formed to unravel the value of a portion of the alphabet, which might in its turn be applied to the translated epithets and titles, and thus lead to a knowledge of the language employed. Incompetent as I felt myself to this investigation, it was too seductive not to lead me to a humble attempt at its solution."<sup>1</sup>

The attempt at thus comparing the corresponding groups of Greek and Arian Páli letters led to two important results. In the first place, it showed Mr. Prinsep that the two groups differed in one important respect; while the Greek letters, as is well-known, are read from left to right, these Arian Páli letters, as he found, must be read from right to left. There could be no doubt on this point; for one thing, it followed "from the regular recurrence of certain letters at what must be the close of the words to which they belonged, as it was impossible that various names and epithets should begin with the same letter, although as taking the like inflections of gender and case, they would most probably end alike."<sup>2</sup> This important fact was sufficient at once to convince Mr. Prinsep that his idea of the unknown characters being Nágari was wrong, and that they belonged to the Semitic class of letters, and, as had generally been inferred from various resemblances to Pehlevi, must be some form of the latter alphabet. In the second place, his comparison of the corresponding groups of Greek and Arian Páli letters enabled him to attempt a determination of a considerable number of Arian Páli equivalents of Greek letters. Unfortunately his prejudice—a very natural one under the circumstances—that since the alphabet had proved to be a kind of Pehlevi, the language expressed by it must be also referred to the same affinity, necessarily

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, pp. 327, 328, 329

<sup>2</sup> See Wilson's *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 260

betrayed him into many erroneous valuations. Thus finding the word *malaka* to express 'king' in the Pehlvi legends of Sassanian coins, he adopted it as the Arian Pâli equivalent of the Greek *Basileos*<sup>1</sup>. The consequence was that he mistook the true value of the three letters *l*, *k*, *o*, the only correct identification being that of the initial letter *m*. Under these circumstances, it cannot be surprising that the result of this first attempt at decipherment was not generally accepted as satisfactory, for it was soon found that many groups of letters, which were well enough known according to Mr. Prinsep's valuation, would yield no intelligible Pehlvi words.

This difficulty led Dr. Swinney to look for the key to the unknown alphabet in an altogether different direction. In 1837 he announced what he believed to be a discovery of it in the Celtic language, the grounds for which he thus explained: "The key I propose is the Celtic—a name given to a language now only known by its remains, preserved to us by various hordes of men settled in Europe, it is true, but for whom the learned of every age have claimed an eastern descent and high antiquity. What advantages the Celtic may possess over the Zend and the Syriac in unravelling Bactrian terms, remains to be proved. It will be admitted, however, by the examples I am about to give that something more than a verbal coincidence of terms has been ascertained"<sup>2</sup>. It is not necessary to quote these examples or further to notice this curiously abortive attempt at a Celtic identification, seeing that it laboured *ab initio* under the fatal defect of being based on a comparison of entirely imaginary words. There is the less need to do so, as Mr. Prinsep, who had himself been not

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, p. 335<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. VI, p. 98

the least dissatisfied with the result of his first attempt was soon after led to seek the solution of the enigma in the true quarters, namely, the ancient Prakrit or Pāli.

Early in 1838 his attention had been attracted by the occurrence of the well-known Asoka character in inscriptions and on some coins found within the limits of ancient Bactriana, whence he rightly argued that "a dialect mainly derived from the Sanskrit was anciently used in Bactria." Applying this new light to the reading of the Bactrian coins, he soon discovered that it did indeed clear up the mystery. "When I look back," he writes, "at my attempt of 1835, I must confess it was very unsatisfactory even to myself. I was misled by the Nakshi Rostam trilingual inscription, wherein the title of king of kings has been uniformly read as *malakán malaká*, though I balanced between this and the term *mahanáo*, having found *rao* on the Indo-Scythic series. But once perceiving that the final letter might be rendered as *sa*, which is the regular Pāli termination of the genitive case, I threw off the fetters of an interpretation through the Semitic languages, and at once found an easy solution of all the names and the epithets through the pliant, the wonder-working Pāli, which seems really to have held an universal sway during the prevalence of the Buddhist faith in India."<sup>2</sup> The new view thus opened out not only led to an almost entirely new re-valuation of the Bactrian symbols, but laid the foundation of that system of decipherment of Arian Pāli inscriptions, the truth of which was increasingly confirmed by every new accession to our knowledge.

Among those who made the most extensive contributions to this knowledge was Lieutenant (now Major-General) A

Cunningham He was indeed from the first associated with Mr. James Prinsep in his discoveries, as may be seen from the following reference to his valuable assistance, which occurs in one of Mr. Prinsep's Essays as early as 1836. "Henceforth my readers should understand, and they will, doubtless, soon perceive the fact, that my coin essays are joint productions, and that I have an auxiliary at my elbow, far better acquainted with the contents of, I may say, all the collections of coins in India than I have leisure to become. With his zealous aid in hunting out the unpublished varieties of every class, I hope to make these notices complete as far as discovery has yet proceeded, and to do fuller justice to the numerous contributions I continue to receive from my numismatic coadjutors in the interior"<sup>1</sup> It was Lieutenant Cunningham who, after the departure of Mr. Prinsep from India, mainly carried on the course of the recovery of the Arian Pāli alphabet. He not only gradually succeeded in adding many more to the single letters already discovered by Mr. Prinsep,<sup>2</sup> so that in 1845 he was in a position to announce that "he believed he had found the Arian-Pāli equivalent for every letter of the Sanskrit alphabet,"<sup>3</sup> but he was also the first to identify some of the much more difficult compound symbols, especially the conjuncts of *r* (as *tr*, *rm*, *rv*)<sup>4</sup>

In connection with this subject it would not be right to pass over altogether the name of Mr. Norris, who, together with Mr. Prinsep and General Cunningham, forms the triumvirate of Arian Pāli discoverers, though his contributions, being made through the Royal Asiatic Society, do not belong to the honour-roll of this Society

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol V, p 652    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IX, pp 871, 882, 883, 887-889, Vol XXIII, p 709    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid* Vol XIV, p 430    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IX, p 863, Vol XIV, p 432, and Vol XXIII, pp 709, 710



In the main, the discovery of the Arian Páli alphabet, as at present known, was completed about 1854. In that year the results then attained were thus summed up by Major A. Cunningham, at the end of an essay on coins of the Indian Buddhist Satraps, in which he had just announced some new identifications: "I cannot close this account without saying a few words in favor of my claim to the discovery of the true values of eleven letters or just one-third of the Ariano-Páli alphabet. The whole number of single-letters amount to thirty five, of which Mr. James Prinsep had assigned the true value to seventeen, or just one-half. To Mr. Norris is due the discovery of six single letters, of which two are the monumental forms of *ch* and its aspirate; and the form of one letter, *jh*, still remains unknown. Of the nine known vowels (five initial and four medial) seven were determined by Mr. James Prinsep, and two by me. Of the few compound letters which are at present known, the numismatic *anusvāra* was discovered by Mr. James Prinsep, the monumental one by Mr. Norris, but the attached *r* in *krā*, *trā*, *drā*, and *stā*, the attached *t* in *st*, the attached *m* in *rm* are all due to myself. The single letters, of which I claim the discovery are *g*, *gh*, *ng*; *ch*, *cch*; *t*, *d*; *ph*, *b*, *bh*; *v*; all of which, with the exception of the fourth and fifth, were made known in this Journal before the publication of Mr. Norris's alphabet in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society for 1846."

Though the determination of the Arian Páli alphabet, as it stands at present, is undoubtedly a very great step in advance, much yet remains to be done before its enigma can be said to be truly resolved. The very circumstance which first afforded a clue to the disco-

very—the equivalence of Greek and Arian Páli letters on the bilingual coins of ancient Bactriana—now acts to some degree as a hindrance; for there are far-reaching divergences between the language and symbols of the Arian Páli and the Greek. The alphabet which has yielded fairly satisfactory renderings of the bilingual Bactrian coins and very small Prákrit inscriptions has hitherto failed, with one exception, to render intelligible any of the larger Arian Páli records, though undoubtedly much of this failure is also due to the unsatisfactory character of the copies as yet available. The earliest of these attempts at reading any of the larger inscriptions was made by Sir E. C. Bayley on the record engraved on the Wandak vase, his rendering, with alterations and additions made by Dr. Rájendralála Mitra, was published in 1861<sup>1</sup>. Two years later, in 1863, General Cunningham published a preliminary reading of the inscription on the Taxila copper plate,<sup>2</sup> and again seven years later, in 1870, Sir E. C. Bayley gave a tentative reading of the copper plate inscription found in the Sue Viláin tower<sup>3</sup>. The last inscription is the one above referred to as being the only one which as yet has received an intelligible and satisfactory translation. This was done in 1881 by the writer of the present Review<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, pp. 337ff, 347ff      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXXII, pp. 139ff

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* Vol. XXXIX, pp. 65ff      <sup>4</sup> Proceedings for 1881 p. 139, see also *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. X, pp. 324ff

## CHAPTER IV.

## HISTORY.

[The Mauryas — Chandragupta, Asoka, Dasaratha — The Andhras — The Græco-Bactrians and Indo-Bactrians — The Indo-Scythians Kadphises, Kanishka, Hushka — The Surashtrians or Satraps — The Mitras or Saugas, the Dattas, the Devas, the Kumandas, the Nāgas — The Guptas their list, date and era — The Valabhis their list and era — The Rathors of Kanauj — The earlier rulers of Kanauj — The Chaudels of Mahoba — The Pālas of Bihar and Bengal — The Senas of Bengal — The Muhammadan rulers of Bengal — Miscellaneous historical and biographical contributions]

ONE of the great merits of the Asiatic Society of Bengal is to have laid the foundation for a true history of Ancient India. Antecedently to the discoveries made through the researches of the Society in the antiquities of India, the history and chronology of that country down to the Muhammadan conquest was inextricable from a mist of more or less legendary tradition, a great part of which was incredible, and all of which was exaggerated or distorted both in regard to the actual events and to the dates at which they were said to have occurred. The only sources which, at that time, were available to the student of Indian history were the traditions, legends and myths, which had been gradually, in the course of many centuries, accumulated in the great epic poems, the Puranic cyclopædias and provincial chronicles, written for the most part in scholastic Sanskrit language by authors to whom history and fiction seem not to have appeared antagonistic. Indeed, the two most trustworthy of the provincial chronicles, the *Rājatarangini* of Kashmir and the *Mahavamsa* of Ceylon, which

make the nearest approach to historical narration, did not become sufficiently known till after the first landmarks in ancient Indian history had been fixed through the discoveries of the Asiatic Society, when they rendered material assistance in filling in such details as could not be ascertained from other sources. The most important of these sources without which indeed no history of ancient India would have been possible are the antiquities of the country, its ancient monuments, inscriptions and coins the discovery and interpretation of which are mainly due to the researches of the Society.

The unsatisfactory character of the knowledge of ancient Indian history, before those discoveries, is not without illustrations in the very pages of the earlier Transactions of the Society itself. The earlier volumes of the Asiatic Researches contain several lengthy dissertations by Lieutenant (afterwards Colonel) Francis Wilford on various subjects connected with the chronology and history of ancient India, published successively in the years 1792, 1795, 1798, 1805, 1807, 1808, 1810 and 1822<sup>1</sup>. They are perhaps unrivalled for the labour, learning and ingenuity bestowed on them, but they are no less unsafe as a guide to Indian history, both on account of the untrustworthiness of the sources relied on, and the extravagance of conjecture displayed in them. Belonging to the same early stage of

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<sup>1</sup> As Res, Vol III, p 295, "On Egypt and the Nile, from the Sanskrit," Vol IV, p 363, "On Semiramis, the origin of Mecca &c from the Hindu Sacred Books," Vol V p 241, "On the Chronology of the Hindus," Vol VIII, p 245, "On the Sacred Isles in the West," Vol IX p 32, "On the Sacred Isles in the West, including Essays on the Chronology of the kings of Magadha and on the Eras of Vikramaditya and Sahvahana," Vol X, p 27 and Vol XI p 11, 'On the Sacred Isles in the West,' Vol XIV, p 373, "On the Ancient Geography of India" J A S B, Vol XX, pp 227, 470, 'On the Comparative Geography of Ancient India'

historical enquiry, though of a much more sober character, are two contributions by Sir William Jones, one a "discourse on the Hindus," published in the first volume of the *Researches* (1788), the other a memoir on "the chronology of the Hindus" in the second volume (1790).<sup>1</sup> The conclusions possible on such data as were then available may be judged from the fact, that in these dissertations Sir W Jones "fixes the time of Buddha in the year one thousand and fourteen before the birth of Christ, or two thousand seven hundred and ninety years ago"<sup>2</sup> He was not unconscious, however, of the unsatisfactory character of his sources, for summing up his results he confesses, "that though he has given a sketch of Indian history through the longest period fairly assignable to it, and has traced the foundation of the Indian empire above three thousand eight hundred years from the present time ; still, on a subject in itself so obscure and so much clouded by the fictions of the Brahmans, who, to aggrandize themselves, have designedly raised their antiquity beyond the truth, we must be satisfied with probable conjecture and just reasoning from the best attainable data ; nor can we hope for a system of Indian chronology, to which no objection can be made, unless the astronomical books in Sanskrit shall yield their unexceptional evidence."<sup>3</sup> Shortly afterwards some of this expected astronomical evidence was made available to Sir William Jones. On a careful consideration of it, he came to the conclusion, which he published in 1790 in a supplementary memoir, and which is still substantially correct, "that the dawn of true Indian history appears only three

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<sup>1</sup> As *Res*, Vol I, p 415, 'The third Anniversary Discourse,' see especially p 425, Vol II, p 111, 'On the Chronology of the Hindus'    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid* Vol I, p 425, Vol. II, p 125    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol II, pp 145, 146

or four centuries before the Christian era, the preceding ages being clouded by allegory or fable”<sup>1</sup>

In those days great results were expected from researches in the astronomical works of the Hindus, with regard to their ancient chronology. These expectations have been only very partially verified; but it was impossible for Sir William Jones, at that time, to foresee the remarkable discoveries that would be made in the antiquities of India and what a flood of light these would throw on its ancient history. Yet he himself was destined, not long afterwards, to announce the first in the long series of historical discoveries—that of the identity of the Indian Chandia Gupta with the Greek Sandracottus. The announcement occurs in his tenth anniversary discourse on “Asiatic History Civil and Natural,” published in 1795 in the fourth volume of the *Researches*.<sup>2</sup> It may be given in his own words. “The jurisprudence of the Hindus and Arabs being the field which I have chosen for my peculiar toil you cannot expect that I should greatly enlarge your collection of historical knowledge, but I may be able to offer you some occasional tribute and I can not help mentioning a discovery which accident threw in my way, though my proofs must be reserved for an essay, which I have destined for the fourth volume of your *Transactions*.<sup>3</sup> To fix the situation of that Palibothra, which was visited and described by Megasthenes, had always appeared a very difficult problem, for though it could not have been Prayaga, nor Canyacubja nor Gau, yet we could not confidently decide that it was Pataliputra, though names and most cir-

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<sup>1</sup> *As. Res.*, Vol. II p. 189, see especially p. 401.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. IV, p. 1, see especially p. 11.    <sup>3</sup> This essay was never published. Unfortunately Sir William Jones died on the 27th April 1794, only a year after the announcement of his great discovery.

cumstances nearly correspond, because that renowned capital extended from the confluence of the Sone and the Ganges to the site of Patna, while Palibothra stood at the junction of the Ganges and Erannoboas, which the accurate M. D'Anville had pronounced to be the Yamuna: but this only difficulty was removed, when I found in a classical Sanskrit book near two thousand years old, that *Hiranyabâhu*, or "golden armed," which the Greeks changed into *Erannoboas*, or "the river with a lovely murmur," was in fact another name for the Sona itself, though Megasthenes, from ignorance or inattention, has named them separately. This discovery led to another of greater moment; for Chandra Gupta, who, from a military adventurer, became, like *Sandracottus*, the sovereign of upper Hindustan, actually fixed the site of his empire at Pataliputra, where he received ambassadors from foreign princes, and was no other than that very *Sandracottus* who concluded a treaty with *Seleucus Nicator*.<sup>1</sup> Sir William Jones' important discovery was at once accepted by Captain Francis Wilford, who adduced some further evidence in confirmation of it,<sup>2</sup> and though at first some scholars raised a few objections, mainly geographical, regarding the apparently different positions of the ancient Palibothra and modern Patna, which further enquiries dispelled, the identification was soon universally admitted to be indubitable, and nothing will ever shake its certainty. Its great importance lies in the fact, that it renders it possible to synchronize the history of India with that of Greece at one point; and as the chronology of Greece is well known and quite certain, we thus obtain a date in Indian chronology as a starting point, from which calculations may be made forwards and backwards with some degree of assurance. *Sandracottus*, namely,

<sup>1</sup> *As Res*, Vol IV, pp 10, 11

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol V, p 262

according to Justin, a Greek historian, had seized the throne of India after the prefects of Alexander had been murdered in 317 B. C. Selenus found him as sovereign of India, when after the taking of Babylon and the conquest of the Bactrians, he passed on into India. He did not, however, conquer Sandracottus, but, after concluding a treaty with him, marched on to make war against Antigonus. This must have taken place before the year 312 B. C., as in that year Selenus had returned to Babylon. The accession of Chandra Gupta must therefore, be placed about 315 B. C., or some time between 317 and 312<sup>1</sup>. This date, then, is the sheet-anchor of Indian chronology. Basing on it, and assisted by Indian chronicles or ancient inscriptions and coins, all calculations referring to the history of ancient India were henceforth made backwards as well as forwards. The more important forward calculations will be noticed further on, of the backward calculations it will suffice to mention here the most important one—that referring to the date of Buddha's death. The most probable date for this event was ultimately ascertained in 1852 by Major (now Major-General) A. Cunningham, to be the year 477 or 478 B. C.<sup>2</sup>

Sir William Jones' identification of Chandra Gupta with Sandracottus had been suggested to him by the notices of that king which he met with in the Hindu Purānas and in a Sanskrit drama, called *Mudrá Rākshasa*, which described his usurpation and coronation<sup>3</sup>. About forty years later, in 1836 and 1837, his discovery received a striking confirmation which the Hon'ble George Thunom was able to produce from the *Buddhistic Annals of Ceylon*<sup>4</sup>. Another item of

<sup>1</sup> See M. Muller's *History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature* pp. 275, 278, 298, 300.

<sup>2</sup> *J. A. S. B.* Vol. XXIII, p. 704, see also Genl. Cunningham's *Corpus Inscr. Ind.*, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> *As Res.* Vol. IV, p. 6, Vol. V p. 262.

<sup>4</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. VI, p. 713.



evidence, however, which was produced about the same time and which, if true, would have been of far greater importance, because it would have been absolutely authentic and nearly contemporary, proved, in the course of further research, to be untenable. This is the occurrence of the name of Chandra Gupta in one of the ancient inscriptions on the pillar of Allahabad. It was thought at first by the early decipherers of those inscriptions, Captain A. Troyer and Mr. J. Prinsep, that this Chandra Gupta might be identical with the Chandra Gupta (Sandracottus) of the Maurya race, whose date had been already satisfactorily ascertained.<sup>1</sup> Further enquiry soon showed that this opinion was erroneous; but at the same time it also resulted, as will be shown further on, in a new discovery, which is only second in importance to that of Sandracottus himself.

This happened in the years 1834-1837, the brief period of great historical discoveries, in which the names of the Hon'ble G. Turnour and Mr J. Prinsep are distinguished above all in the small band of enquirers and scholars who contributed to the great result. About this time the former had commenced a careful study and analysis of the Páli Buddhistical Annals of Ceylon. Some of the results of it he communicated, in a series of memoirs, to the *Journal of the Society*. The first of these memoirs, in the volume for 1836, was called forth by some disparaging remarks on the trustworthiness of Buddhistical as compared with Brahmanical chronology, into which Professor H. H. Wilson and Mr. J. Prinsep had been betrayed.<sup>2</sup> In the course of his reply he showed that the king Asoka of Kashmir, mentioned in the chronicles of that country, was the same Asoka

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol III, pp. 119, 120, Vol VII, p 343

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol V, pp 525, 536

whom the Buddhist annals relate to have been the grandson of Chandia Gupta of the Mauryan dynasty and to have ascended the throne of Magadha in the year 325 B C<sup>1</sup> A second and third memoir, published in 1837, are devoted to the elucidation of some of the chronological statements and difficulties occurring in those portions of the Buddhist annals which relate the history of Asoka and his dynasty Mr Tinnour came to the conclusion that the only way to arrive at an agreement between the dates furnished by these annals and those of Europe was to admit in the former an error of about sixty years—an error which he thought was designedly committed by the Buddhist annalists<sup>2</sup>

In the meanwhile, Mr. J Prinsep had been zealously carrying on his attempts in deciphering the most ancient of the pillar inscriptions at Allahabad, Dehli and other places In these, as already related in the preceding chapter of this Review, he was eminently successful In the Journal for that very year, 1837, he published his first discovery, that those inscriptions professed to have been made by the order of a king Piyadassi, and having failed to identify this king with any prince mentioned in any of the Hindu genealogical tables with which he was acquainted, he suggested that Piyadassi, who called himself “the beloved of the Gods” (*devānam priya*), might be identical with a Ceylonese king, called Deveni Piatissa, who in the Buddhist annals of Ceylon is said to have succeeded his father in B C 307, and to have prevailed on the Indian king, Asoka of Magadha, to introduce Buddhism into that island. He pointed out that his suggestion was in agreement with the date of Asoka, as calculated from that of his grandfather Chandia Gupta, whose date had been determined by

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol V, p 521

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VI, pp 501, 713

Sir William Jones ;<sup>1</sup> and that further this proved that the pillars had been erected about three hundred years before the Christian era<sup>2</sup> As he went on, however, deciphering the remainder of Piyadassi's inscriptions, he found reason to mistrust his identification of that king with the Ceylonese prince, and his doubts were converted into certainty when Mr. Turnour communicated to him his discovery that, according to the Buddhist annals, Piyadassi was no one else than the well-known Asoka of Magadha himself, who bore Piyadassi as a surname. Mr. Turnour's discovery Mr. Prinsep lost no time in communicating to the world in the pages of the *Journal* for 1837 ;<sup>3</sup> and a little later in the same year, Mr. Turnour himself, in the course of two further memoirs which he contributed to the pages of the *Journal*, gave a detailed account of his discovery of the identity of Piyadassi with Asoka in the *Dipavamsa*, a newly discovered ancient Buddhist chronicle ; and further confirmed it by the authority of another ancient chronicle, the *Rasavāhinī*<sup>4</sup> In the *Journal* for the following year, 1838, Mr. Turnour pursued his researches into the Buddhist annals of Ceylon, which had yielded such happy results, through three additional memoirs, in one of which he communicated an analysis of the *Dipavamsa*.<sup>5</sup> In the same year, 1838, Mr. J. Prinsep had once more the happiness to announce the third and last of the discoveries connected with the name of king Asoka. It was the synchronism between that king and the kings Antiochus II Theos of Syria and Ptolemy Philadelphos of Egypt, who died in 247 B. C., and with whom Asoka is stated in his inscriptions to have

<sup>1</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. VI pp 469ff<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp 566, 567<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp 856 and 1050, see especially pp 1054, 1056, see also Vol. VII, p 156<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, pp 686, 789, 919-991

entered into treaty relations.<sup>1</sup> Thus three independent bases had now been found, from which it was possible to calculate the date of king Asoka's reign and fix it with certainty within very narrow limits,—*i e*, most probably from 264 to 223,—<sup>2</sup> a date which fully bore out Mr Tournour's discovery of an error of about sixty years in the Buddhist chronology<sup>3</sup>

The identification of Asoka immediately led to the verification of a third member of the Maurya dynasty, his grandson Dasaratha. The existence of this prince had been doubtful, as in some of the Puranic annals his name was omitted from the list of Maurya sovereigns. But, in 1837, Mr J. Prinsep succeeded in deciphering his name in an inscription occurring in one of the Nágárijuní caves, near Gaya; and as the inscription is engraved in the characters of the time of Asoka and the very surname Devánam priya, which is borne by Asoka himself, is given in it to Dasaratha, there could be no longer any doubt as to the existence and identity of the latter<sup>4</sup>

The discoveries connected with Asoka led to another identification which deserves a passing notice; for though at that time based on a fallacy, it has since been established on much more satisfactory grounds. In one of the inscriptions on the rock of Girnar, Mr. J Prinsep discovered, in 1838, the name of a king Satakarni, who, as was known from the Hindu genealogical lists belonged to a line of Andhra sovereigns. The exact date of these kings was not known, but in an essay on the kings of Magadha, published in the

<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol VII, pp 156 (160) and pp 219, 225. At first Mr Prinsep had identified the Antiochus of the inscription with Antiochus the Great (VII, p 160), but afterwards he corrected his mistake (VII, p 225). <sup>2</sup> See General Cunningham's *Corpus Inscr Ind*, pp III-X. <sup>3</sup> See above, p 89. <sup>4</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, pp 676 678, 790, and Vol VII, p 156.



remedied and the barrenness of events changed to abundance. Successful research not only corroborated all that was before imperfectly known but filled up the meagre outline with circumstances and persons of historical truth and importance. The hitherto unnamed or unknown members of successive or synchronous dynasties came now into view as well-defined individuals and in connected order, and revolutions of a religious as well as of a political origin could be discerned if not with all the minuteness one could wish, yet with a distinctness that still demands unquestioning reliance. The means by which these additions to our knowledge of the past were effected were, as already said, the numerous coins which were found within those seven years in Turkistān, Afghanistan and the Panjāb.<sup>1</sup> A large number of zealous collectors and investigators co-operated in the researches. Lieutenant Bunnes, General Comt Allard and Ventura, Doctors Gerard, Swiney, Loid and Martin Homberger, Shekh Karamat Ali and others.<sup>2</sup> But foremost amongst them all were Mr. James Prinsep, General Cunningham and above all Mr. Masson. The latter "had resided some time in Afghanistan and had been engaged either by himself or in co-operation with a medical officer in the service of Rājā Singh, Dr. Homberger in examining the ancient monuments, the topes and tumuli of that country. In the course of these investigations some coins were obtained, but the chief site of Mr. Masson's discoveries was at a place named Begham." "At an early period of his researches he proposed to the Government of Bombay to transfer his actual and all future collections to the East India Company, on condition of their defraying the cost of

<sup>1</sup> See *Asiatic Antiquary* pp. 2-3.      <sup>2</sup> See *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. II pp. 28, 37, 308, 311, Vol. III, pp. 175, 313, 320, 324, 436, Vol. IV, pp. 327, 328, Vol. V, p. 549, Vol. VII, pp. 637, 1017.

his operations. The proposal was favourably received, and from the year 1834 until 1837 Mr. Masson was sedulously employed in the pursuit, in which he had engaged with equal intelligence and zeal, on behalf and at the expense of the East India Company. In the course of time the collections which he had formed and which included above thirty thousand coins, were transmitted to England and deposited in the Company's museum."<sup>1</sup>

Antecedently to the discoveries made by Mr. Masson and his co-operators, no more than nine kings of Bactriana were known to the learned world. These were Theodotus I and II, Euthydemus, Demetrius, Eukratides, Heliokles, Antimachus, Menander and Apollodotus<sup>2</sup>. The last two had only been discovered a few years previously to 1833, by Colonel Tod, who, during twelve years of his residence in India, had conducted a zealous search after ancient coins, and in that interval had succeeded in accumulating no less than twenty thousand coins of all denominations. He published his discovery of Menander and Apollodotus in the *Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society* for 1824<sup>3</sup>. In 1833 Mr. Masson's successful operations in Kabul commenced,<sup>4</sup> the results of which he made known in the pages of the *Journal*, in a series of most interesting memoirs. In the very first of these, published in 1834, he was able to announce the discovery of no less than six new Bactrian sovereigns, namely Antialkides, Lysias, Agathocles, Pantaleon, Hermæus and two others whom he called Unadpherras,<sup>5</sup> and Sotereages or Hegas. The latter name was immediately discerned by Mr. Prinsep to be a

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<sup>1</sup> See *Ariana Antiqua*, pref., p. v, and pp. 10, 11.    <sup>2</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. II, pp. 37, 315, Vol. III, pp. 155, 156. See also *Ariana Antiqua*, pp. 3, 4.    <sup>3</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. II, pp. 29, 37. See also *Transaction, R. A. S.*, Vol. I, p. 314, and *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 4.    <sup>4</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. III, p. 153.    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 162, 442, and Vol. IV p. 327.

mis-lection for Megas "the Great," and to be the designation of an otherwise unnamed king.<sup>1</sup> One of this king's coins had already been noticed, as early as 1832 and 1833, though not recognized, in the Asiatic Researches and the Journal.<sup>2</sup> The other name Unadpharias was also afterwards corrected by Mr Prinsep to Gondophares.<sup>3</sup> Most of the extensive collections made by Mr. Masson, Lient Bureau, and others had the good fortune of passing under the experienced eye of Mr J Prinsep in Calcutta, and from time to time, as he made new discoveries they were communicated to the world in successive volumes of the Journal. Thus, in 1835 he announced the discovery of another batch of four new kings: Philoxenes, Azes, Azilises and Vonones.<sup>4</sup> The name of the last, however, was at that time read incorrectly as Nonus; and it may be added that one of his coins as well as three of Azes had been already described, though not recognized, by Mr Masson in his memoir of the preceding year.<sup>5</sup> In 1836, the latter published a second memoir on the ancient coins of Beghram. In this, again three new kings were added to those already discovered,—*viz* Diomedes and two others,—whose names Mr. Masson read as Adelphoites and Paleikes.<sup>6</sup> In a third memoir, however, published a little later in the same year, 1836, he corrected the second of the two names into Spalirisus,<sup>7</sup> while Mr Prinsep succeeded in finding the true name of the first king to be Spalyrius.<sup>8</sup> Here again, coins of these two kings had been noticed, but not recognized, much earlier; *viz* Spalyrius in 1830 and Spalirisus

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol III, pp 162, 168, Vol IV, 344, 345    <sup>2</sup> As Res, Vol XVII, pp 575—577 (figs 23—25), J A S B, Vol II p 38 (figs 19 20), p 314 (fig 113), p 411 (figs 9, 10)    <sup>3</sup> J A S B, Vol IV, p 346, and Vol VII, p 654    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IV, pp 341-345    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p 342, Vol V, p 25, also Vol III, p 172 (figs 43, 45, 46, 47) See also Ariana Antiqua, p 338 (No 2)    <sup>6</sup> J A S B, Vol V, pp 1, 18, 19, 20, 24, and 25, see also p 549    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 547, see also p 551    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p 551



in 1834.<sup>1</sup> In the same memoir Mr. Masson succeeded in adding one more to his discoveries, *viz* the king Achehus, or, as his name is now generally accepted to be, Archebius.<sup>2</sup> Only two months afterwards, in November 1836, the list of Bactrian sovereigns was again enriched, through Mr. Prinsep, with two new names, those of a king Amyntas and a queen Agathokleia,<sup>3</sup> and after a pause of nearly two years, in July 1838, one more was added by him, named Abagases (or Abalgases or Abdagases)<sup>4</sup> Again two years later, in 1840, Lieutenant (now Major-General) A. Cunningham brought forward a new king Zoilus:<sup>5</sup> and after an interval of another two years, he had the satisfaction of announcing the discovery of no less than eight new names of Bactrian sovereigns. These were the kings Strato, Telephus, Hippostratus, Pakores, Arsaces, Dionysius, Nikias, and the queen Kalliope<sup>6</sup> With this last successful find the long series of discoveries in the regal history of Bactriana came, in the main, to an end. Only one more addition was made many years afterwards, it was that of a king Plato, who was discovered in 1872 by Mr J. G. Delmerick.<sup>7</sup>

Besides the mere list of sovereigns of Bactriana, the coins afforded much additional information on the political, social, and religious condition of that country. This information was carefully collected by Mr. Masson, Professor Lassen, and Lieutenant A. Cunningham, and published by them in a series of memoirs contributed to the *Journal* during the years 1834 to 1840.<sup>8</sup> It would exceed, how-

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 172 (fig. 44), and Vol. IV, p. 342 (figs. 6, 9). <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. V, pp. 547, 548, see also *Ariana Antiqua*, pp. 279, 280 (No. 1). <sup>3</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. V, pp. 720, 721. <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, pp. 640, 645, 654, see also Vol. IX, p. 882. <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, p. 871. <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XI Part 1, pp. 130, 135. <sup>7</sup> Proceedings for 1872, pp. 34, 174. <sup>8</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 151, Vol. V, pp. 537, 707, Vol. VI, p. 57 (Masson),—Vol. IX, pp. 251, 339, 449, 627, 933 (Lassen, translated by Dr. Roer),—Vol. IX, 867 (Cunningham).

ever, the proper limits of this Review to enter fully into this subject, which, moreover, in not a few points, is still a matter of doubt and difference, even at the present day. It will suffice to state, that the coins, from their characters, inscriptions, emblems, find-places and various other circumstances, clearly show, that the line of princes discovered through them did not form a continuous succession of sovereigns, but that many of them must have been contemporaneous rulers in a variety of independent Greek principalities, into which the whole of Bactriana was divided; that some of these principalities must have included Afghanistan and the Panjáb, and used the old western Páli—a language closely akin to Sanskrit, that by the side of the worship of Greek and Iranian divinities the Buddhist faith must have been current in the eastern portion of Bactriana; and that the period during which these Bactrian and Indo-Bactrian reigns lasted must have extended from about 250 to 120 before Christ, when they were subverted by an irruption of Scythian tribes from the centre of Asia.

It had long been known from the annals of Kashmir, an account of which was published by Professor H H Wilson in 1825 in the Asiatic Researches,<sup>1</sup> that, at an ancient period, a dynasty of Turkish or Indo-Scythian princes had conquered and held sway over that country. Three members of the dynasty were especially named—Kamiskha, Hushka and Yashka—whose date was supposed to be the fifth century before the Christian era.<sup>2</sup> It was about ten years later, that Mr J Prinsep first succeeded in verifying these Indo-Scythic princes and their true dates through their coins. The first specimens of these coins were made known in 1824 by Colonel Tod in the Transactions of the

<sup>1</sup> As Res, Vol. XV, p 1      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pp 23, 24, 91, 92      J A S B, Vol II  
p 315

Royal Asiatic Society,<sup>1</sup> and a year later, in 1825, by Professor H. H. Wilson in the Asiatic Researches of this Society.<sup>2</sup> They were, however, not fully recognized at that time, and it was not till 1833, when a well-preserved specimen was discovered by Lieutenant Burnes, that Mr Prinsep was first enabled to decipher the name of king Kanishka on it. It is true, the name on the coin reads Kanerkou, but Mr. Prinsep at once recognized it to be merely another form of the well-known Kanishka;<sup>3</sup> and though a year later, in 1834, some mistaken evidence led him and Mr Masson to feel uncertain as to this happy identification,<sup>4</sup> it soon gained the general assent of all numismatists and historians, while in 1845, some new Buddhistic coins of that king enabled Lieutenant A. Cunningham to "afford the last links in the chain of evidence to prove the identity of the Indo-Scythian Kanerki with the Buddhist prince Kanishka of Kashmir"<sup>5</sup> In the same year, 1845, Lieutenant Cunningham also proved that the Indo-Scythian king Oerki or Hoerki, many of whose coins had been found in the meanwhile, was the same as the king Hushka of the Kashmirian annals.<sup>6</sup> The existence of a third Indo-Scythian king, called Kadphises, had been already previously, in 1834, established from his coin by Mr Masson.<sup>7</sup> A careful consideration of the types of the coins of these three kings clearly showed, that they succeeded each other in the following order—Kadphises, Kanerki, Hoerki,<sup>8</sup> and a com-

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<sup>1</sup> See Transactions, R. A. S., Vol I      <sup>2</sup> As Res., Vol XVII, pp 562-566, 577-583 (figs 1-4 and 26-42)      <sup>3</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol II, pp 314, 315      <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol III, pp 159, 449      <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XIV, pp 430, 440, 441      <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 431, <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol III, pp 160, 229, 443 At first the name was read wrongly, Mokadphises, by M. R. Rochette and M. Jacquet of Paris, see *ibid*, Vol V, p 553, and Ariana Antiqua, p 354      <sup>8</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol IV, pp 630, 631, Vol XIV, p 441, see Ariana Antiqua, pp 353, 357, 373 At first Mr Masson placed Kadphises after Kanerki, see J. A. S. B., Vol III, pp 173, 174

parison of the coins of Kadphises with those of Hermæus, the last king of the Bactrian kingdom of Nysa, further showed that the latter must have been overthrown by an invasion of the Indo-Scythians under his leadership<sup>1</sup>. A clearly defined progress of imitation and modification traceable through the coins of Hermæus, Kadphises, Kanishka and Hushka left no reasonable doubt on this point, and an additional confirmation was derived from the fact, that the find-spots of the coins pointed to Kabul,—where indeed the tomb of Kadphises was discovered by Dr Martin Honigberger—as the capital of the Indo-Scythian dynasty<sup>2</sup>. Moreover it was possible, from the coins, in combination with historical traditions, to determine approximately the period during which the Indo-Scythian empire lasted, viz., from about the commencement of the first century before Christ when the kingdom of Nysa was conquered, to about the end of the second century after Christ, when the reign of Vasudeva, the successor of Hushka, must have terminated. Indeed, there is every probability that the accession of Kanishka is coincident with the establishment of the celebrated Saka or Scythian era. According to the trustworthy Buddhist tradition of Tibet, Kanishka reigned upwards of 100 years after the death of Buddha. That event is now known to have taken place in 477 or 478 B.C., so that the accession of Kanishka in 78 A.D., the initial year of the Saka era, is quite probable. Calculations approaching this result had been made by MM Prinsep, Masson and Cunningham,<sup>3</sup> though it was reserved for much later researches by Dr R. Mitra and others, founded upon the discoveries of inscriptions of Kanishka and his successor at

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, pp. 159, 160    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 159, 160, 173    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 316, Vol. III, pp. 159, 160, Vol. XIV, p. 441



wards, in 1838, when he discovered that the coins bore dates in an ancient form of numeration and of an unknown era.<sup>1</sup> The subsequent researches of Mr Thomas in 1848 and Mr Newton in 1862 have added no less than fourteen new names, so that the list of Surashtrian kings now consists of twenty-six names, with the modifications necessitated by their discovery.<sup>2</sup> With regard to the date of these kings, Mr Prinsep gave expression to several different, and even contradictory opinions. At one time he ascribed them to a period from the third to the seventh centuries after Christ,<sup>3</sup> at another time, misled by his erroneous view of the great age of the Guntur inscription he thought they might be as old as the time of the great Chandra Gupta in the fourth century B C.<sup>4</sup> By the side of these, however, he also expressed a third view for which he himself produced the strongest evidence and which, being most consistent with all the circumstances of the Surashtrian coins, is now universally accepted as the only correct one. These coins, namely, exhibit the clearest evidence of likeness, on the one hand, with the coins of the later Parthian rulers of Bactriana, especially of those of king Kodes, of which they are unmistakable imitations; on the other hand, with the coins of the Gupta kings of Magadha and Kanauj, of which they are the prototypes.<sup>5</sup> This determines the date of their period as extending from the first century before Christ to the third century after Christ, so that possibly the well-known (so-called) Vikramāditya or Samvat era, which commences in 56 B C, may date from the accession of their dynasty. Another evidence

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VII pp 318-351.    <sup>2</sup> See Proceedings for 1882 p 42. Mr Newton's paper is in the Journal, Bom As Soc Vol VII, p 30, and Mr Thomas', in the Journal, Royal Asiatic Society, Vol XII, p 32, and in Dr Burgess' Archaeological Survey of Western India, Vol I, p 44.    <sup>3</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, pp 385, 386.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid* p 388, and Vol VII, pp 44, 45, 347.    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IV, pp 684, 685, Vol VI p 559, see also Vol XXIV, p 501.

to the same effect is derived from the form of the characters of the coin-legends. which is less ancient than that of the Asoka alphabet, while it is older than that of the Gupta characters <sup>1</sup> Once again, their title Kshatrapa, which is the same as the Persian Satrap, brings them in immediate contact with the later Bactrian-Greek or Parthian kings in the second and first centuries before Christ.<sup>2</sup>

The numismatic researches which were so zealously and successfully conducted in those early years helped to verify, as contemporaries of the Indo-Scythian and Surashtrian sovereigns, another class of Indian rulers, some of whom, unlike the Surashtrian kings, were distinctly recorded in the Puranic chronicles of India. These were the various dynasties known by the names of the Mitras or Sungas, the Dattas, the Devas, the Kunandas, the Nāgas and others. Most of them had one common characteristic—that their coins bore various sorts of Buddhist symbols. This circumstance by itself indicated that they might be safely ascribed to that period of Indian history during which Buddhism held most undisputed sway over the political and social life of the people, in the centuries immediately before and after Christ <sup>3</sup> To Mr. Prinsep and the earliest collectors who so abundantly supplied him with their newly found treasures, these coins were very obscure, nor have subsequent researches sufficed to remove all the obscurity attaching to them. But so much Mr. Prinsep clearly discerned from the character of their emblems, the ancient form of their letters, and their more or less close resemblance to the

later Bactrian coinage, that they were to be ascribed to a very early date,<sup>1</sup> and that they were Buddhistic<sup>2</sup> His opinion as to their character and age is sufficiently indicated by the names he gave them—Indo-Bactrian or Buddhist Satrap coins, &c.<sup>3</sup> Subsequently three distinct divisions among these early Hindu or Buddhist coins have had some more light thrown on them, in consequence of further discoveries of coins. These are the coinages of the Buddhist Satraps, the Nágas, and the Mitras. On the two first mentioned, Major (now Major-General) A. Cunningham contributed two memoirs to the pages of the *Journal* of 1854 and 1865.<sup>4</sup> Of the so-called Buddhist Satraps he verified three members of a dynasty, which he identified with those of a Maurya dynasty of Dehli, mentioned in the Hindu genealogies.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, on account of the style of the Greek letters, and the types which are imitated from those of the later Bactrian kings, he fixed the date of these Satraps to have been the first century before the Christian era.<sup>6</sup> In his memoir of 1865, Major Cunningham verified a dynasty of nine Nága princes, who, to judge from the character of their coins, must have been contemporary with the well-known Guptas in the first and second centuries of the Christian era, and who are all recorded in the Puranic annals of India.<sup>7</sup> Regarding the Mitra dynasty, which is also recorded in the Puranic annals, no more information was received till nearly the close of the century. In 1879, a large number of coins of that dynasty were discovered near Rámanagar, which enabled Mr. A. C. Carlleyle, in

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, pp. 227, 228, 435, Vol. IV, pp. 621, 627, 628, 689, Vol. VI, p. 463, Vol. VII, p. 1052.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, pp. 625, 628, Vol. VI, pp. 463, 465.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, pp. 1051, 1052.    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIII, p. 679, Vol. XXXIV, p. 115.    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIII, pp. 681, 683.    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 681, see also Vol. XXIV, p. 396.    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, pp. 116, 118, 119, 120.



two memoirs, published in the *Journal* of 1880,<sup>1</sup> to make an attempt to arrange the Mitra princes provisionally in an order of succession, consisting of fourteen members,<sup>2</sup> and to refer their date to a period from the second century before Christ to the second century after Christ.<sup>3</sup>

To return to the period of Mr. Prinsep's activity, his successful decipherment, in conjunction with Captain Troyer, Dr. Mill and others, of the ancient pillar and rock inscriptions in 1834 to 1836 has been already related in a preceding chapter. That decipherment led to a discovery hardly less important for the history of India than that of the date of the great Chandra Gupta, half a century before, by Sir William Jones.

Early in 1834, Captain Troyer, who had succeeded in partially deciphering the second of the inscriptions on the pillar at Allahabad, noticed that it contained the names of four generations of princes, called Gupta. These names he thought were Chandra Gupta, Yagnakacha, Chandra Gupta, and Samudra Gupta; and the first named Chandra Gupta, he suggested, though doubtfully, might be the same as the great Sandracottus of the fourth century B. C.<sup>4</sup> Two months later, in May 1834, the Revd Dr Mill, who had subjected the inscription to a careful re-examination, discovered that the first two names had been misread by Captain Troyer, and should be Gupta and Ghatotkacha, respectively. He also showed that the suggested identification of Chandra Gupta was open to too serious objections to be accepted. He pointed out that the letters of the inscription were of a comparatively too modern form to suit the early date of Sandracottus,

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol XLIX, pp 21, 87. See also *Proceedings for 1880*, pp 7, 92  
<sup>2</sup> J A S B, Vol XLIX pp 23, 28    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 89 *Proceedings for 1880*,  
p 92    <sup>4</sup> J A S B, Vol III, pp 119, 120, Vol V, p 644

that the names of the Gupta dynasty discovered on the pillar were entirely different from those of the Maurya dynasty recorded in the Puranic genealogies, and that, moreover, the Gupta kings were said in the inscriptions to belong to the Solar race of Indian sovereigns, while in the Purānas the Mauryas were classed as members of the Lunar race<sup>1</sup>. In a later communication to the Journal, he added a fourth objection based on the difference of religion professed by the Guptas and Mauryas respectively, the former being worshippers of Siva, while the latter were followers of Buddha,<sup>2</sup> and though the Hon'ble George Turnour and Mr Prinsep showed that one of these objections,—that referring to the difference of race,—was not unsummountable,<sup>3</sup> Dr Mill's rejection of the proposed identification was then, and is now, universally assented to.

In default of this reluctantly dismissed identification, various others were at first attempted, though not with any greater success. Both Dr Mill and Mr Prinsep carefully searched through the traditional genealogies of the numerous Rajput dynasties of the middle ages, but without succeeding in finding any names that would allow of identification with the Guptas of the inscription<sup>4</sup>. The more so, as both the possibility and difficulty of an identification had, in the meanwhile, been greatly increased by the successful decipherment in 1837 of another ancient pillar inscription at Bhitari, which enabled both Mr. Prinsep and Dr Mill to add three further names, those of Chandia Gupta II, Kumāra Gupta and

<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol III pp 259, 266 267. Curiously enough, Dr Mill himself appears to have overlooked that he also corrected Capt Troyer's Chandra Gupta I into Gupta, see p 253, but the original erroneous reading rests also on the evidence of Mr Prinsep see Vol III, p 115. <sup>2</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, pp 9, 15.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, pp 15, 275. <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol III, pp 339, Vol IV, 639.

Skandla Gupta (besides an unnamed infant successor of the last) to the list of Guptas already known from the Allahabad pillar.<sup>1</sup> To this it may be added, that in the following year, 1838, Mr. Prinsep was able, from the pillar inscription at Etan, to add one more name to the list, Buddha Gupta (perhaps the unnamed infant of the Bhitari pillar), who must have succeeded Skandla Gupta and with whom the list of the Gupta dynasty now consisted of eight names.<sup>2</sup> The discovery of these additional names led Dr. Mill to turn to the Puranic records, which mention a Gupta dynasty as reigning in the kingdom of Magadha. He proposed as a "far more plausible hypothesis" that these Guptas of the Purānas might be the same as the Guptas of the pillar inscription; and on this hypothesis he calculated that their date "could scarcely be fixed higher than the age of Charlemagne in Europe" in the ninth century of our era.<sup>3</sup> This identification with the Puranic Guptas had already previously in 1836 been suggested by Mr. Prinsep, who, however, feeling the incongruity of the assignment of such a late date to the Guptas, was rightly inclined to adopt the other alternative of "carrying back the chronology of the Purānas a few centuries."<sup>4</sup>

At this point, a very important light was thrown on the question of the true date of the Gupta dynasty, by the

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. V, p. 611, Vol. VI, pp. 7, 8.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 632. Two more names have since been noted, *et c.*, Nara Gupta and Bakra Gupta. Of these the former may be the same as Buddha Gupta, while the latter is probably an erroneous reading for Chandra Gupta. See Dr. Burgess' *Archæological Survey of Western India*, Vol. I, pp. 39, 63, and General Cunningham's *Archæological Survey Reports*, Vol. IX, p. 23.    <sup>3</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, pp. 9, 10, 12.    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. V, p. 611. The same feeling, it may be here mentioned, induced Mr. Prinsep about the same time to suggest the identification of Chandra Gupta with a prince Chandra Kanta in the 5th century A. D., mentioned in a Chinese account of India, see Vol. VI, pp. 65, 975. This suggestion was not followed up any further.

numismatic enquiries which had been, proceeding *pari passu* with the examination of the inscriptions. A curious kind of early Hindū coins, inscribed with letters in an ancient form of Nāgarī and exhibiting striking resemblances to the Indo-Scythian coinage, had been observed as early as 1821, when Col Tod published some in the Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society<sup>1</sup> Others were made known in 1825 by Professor Wilson in the Asiatic Researches, and in 1833 by Mr J Prinsep, in the Journal.<sup>2</sup> Their ascription was, however not recognized till the following year, 1834, when both Mr Prinsep and Dr. Mill observed that they bore not only the same type of letters as those on the second Allahabad inscription, but actually the same names, Ghatotkacha, Chandra Gupta and Samudra Gupta<sup>3</sup> In the following year, 1835, their observation was fully confirmed by the discovery, on other similar coins, of the remainder of the Gupta names known from the Bhitari inscription, Kumāra Gupta and Skanda Gupta<sup>4</sup> It was evident, therefore, that the Guptas of the coins belonged to the same dynasty of princes as that which had caused the pillar inscriptions to be set up<sup>5</sup>

Among the coins there were some which bore the name of Mahendra Gupta It was thought by Mr Prinsep, that then discovery added to the list of the dynasty a new name, not mentioned in any inscription<sup>6</sup> His opinion was

<sup>1</sup> *Ariana Antiqua*, pp 5, 6 Similar coins had been first discovered in 1783 near Calcutta on the bank of the Hooghly <sup>2</sup> *As Res*, Vol XVII, pp 566, 568, 570-574 (figs 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 16-19), *J A S B*, Vol II, pp 412-415 (fig 15), see also *J A S B*, Vol III, p 620, editorial note. <sup>3</sup> *J A S B*, Vol III, pp 231, 267, 268 (see also p 268 foot note), 620, see also Vol IV, pp 634, 637, 642 <sup>4</sup> *J A S B*, Vol IV, pp 634-643, Vol V, p 644 <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol III, p 268, Vol IV, p 611 <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol V, p 644 In Vol IV, p 643, Mr Prinsep gives a list of 13 members of the dynasty, many of whom, however, have since proved to be the same persons

long accepted as correct by every one,<sup>1</sup> but latterly it has been abandoned as untenable, it having been found that the appellation Mahendra Gupta was only another name of Kumára Gupta.<sup>2</sup>

All the coins hitherto examined had been of gold. The Gupta kings, however, possessed also a silver currency. Specimens of these silver coins had been published by Mr. Prinsep as early as 1834 and 1835.<sup>3</sup> On account of their striking resemblance to the Satrap coins of Suráshtra, they seem, at first, to have been looked upon as a variety of that class of coins. Gradually, however, as the legends on them were deciphered, it was found that they bore the names of some of the now well-known kings of the Gupta dynasty, and it was evident that they were simply the silver division of the Gupta currency. The names noticed on these silver coins were those of the later kings, Chandra Gupta II, Kumára Gupta, Skanda Gupta and Buddha Gupta. No name of an earlier king was ever met with. At length in 1835 the whole subject of the Gupta mintages, including both their gold and silver currencies, was reviewed by Mr. E. Thomas in a memoir published in the twenty fourth volume of the *Journal*, in which he gathered together and summed up all the numismatic information on the Guptas available at that time.<sup>4</sup>

The careful examination of the Gupta mintages established

<sup>1</sup> So in 1855, by Mr. E. Thomas, in *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. XXIV, pp. 383, 485; see also Prof. H. H. Wilson in *Ariana Antiqua*, p. 420, in 1841, and Lassen in his *Indian Antiquities*, Vol. II, p. 971. <sup>2</sup> *J. A. S. B.* Vol. XXX, p. 146, see also General Cunningham's *Bhilsa Topes*, p. 141, Mr. E. Thomas's edition of Prinsep's *Indian Antiquities*, Vol. I, p. 276, and the same in Dr. Burgess' *Archæological Survey of Western India*, Vol. I, p. 70. <sup>3</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. III, p. 230 (fig. 20), Vol. IV, p. 687 (figs. 10-12). <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIV, p. 483. A later summary in 1876, by the same author, is included in Dr. Burgess' *Archæological Survey of Western India*, Vol. I, p. 18.

two points of great historic importance, the extent of their empire and the date of their rule Dr Mill first suggested, in 1834, that the capital of the Gupta dynasty must have been Kanauj, on the ground that they were, as he fallaciously thought, "a branch of the Solar family" As an other, and a much better founded reason he referred to the fact, that their gold coins were most frequently found in the ruins of that ancient town<sup>1</sup> On the latter ground his suggestion was generally accepted until latterly, when it has been shown that their capital lay probably much lower down the Ganges, in Magadha proper, on the site of modern Patna or ancient Pataliputra. Mr Prinsep, with the rest, adopted Dr Mill's suggestion regarding the kingdom of the Guptas at Kanauj,<sup>2</sup> but from the types and the find-spots of their silver coins, in Ujjain, Suráshtra and other places, he concluded that, though their capital was at Kanauj, the empire must have included a very large portion of North India, from Magadha in the East to the Suráshtra province in the West<sup>3</sup> Further researches, bringing out other, and in some respects more trustworthy evidence, have since confirmed Mr Prinsep's conclusions, and shown that the Gupta empire, at one time, under Chandra Gupta II, must have had an almost as wide extent as that of the Mauryas at their best time, under Asoka

With regard to the date of their empire, the evidence of the coins and of the inscriptions coincided and was conclusive. The characters on the coins as well as on the inscription, it was at once observed, were of the same type, and that, a very ancient one ; indeed, if any thing, those on the silver coins were rather more ancient than those

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. III, p. 267      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, p. 640, Vol. VI, p. 975

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, pp. 640, 641, Vol. VI, p. 975

on the gold currency.<sup>1</sup> From a comparison of this type of letters with the more modern Kutila characters of the twelfth century after Christ, and with the more ancient alphabet employed by Asoka in the third century before Christ, Mr. Prinsep drew the conclusion that the Gupta characters may be placed about midway in the third or fourth century of our era.<sup>2</sup> This conclusion was confirmed by the coins in a remarkable way. While on the one hand the gold coins of the Guptas exhibited a striking resemblance to those of the great Indo-Scythian sovereigns, their silver coins showed an even more unmistakable likeness with the silver currency of the Satrap rulers of Suráshtia on the one side, and that of the Valabhi kings on the other. It was evident, therefore, that, on the testimony of their coins, the Guptas must have followed the Indo-Scythians and the Satraps, and must have preceded the Valabhis.<sup>3</sup> The date of the accession of the last mentioned rulers of Valabhi in Gujarat was accurately known to be the year 319 A.D. For that date, according to the trustworthy statement of the Arab historian Al-Biruni, was the initial year of their own era, which commenced with their accession to the throne. On the other hand, there were, as has been previously shown, good reasons for fixing the termination of the rule of the Indo-Scythians and the Satraps somewhere towards the end of the second century after Christ.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, from the number of names in the list of Gupta kings, eight of whom,

<sup>1</sup> *J.*, were known, it could be calculated with much probability, also Prof. *A.*, that their rule must have filled a space in Indian Antiquity of nearly two centuries. It followed from all the

considerations that the period of the Gupta empire must be fixed within the limits reaching from a little after the middle of the second century up to the year 319 A. D. The final year being already accurately known, it only remained for future researches to determine, if possible, the initial year of the Gupta rule

It must not be supposed that all this information was the result of the earliest researches of Mr Prinsep and his coadjutors. They only generally fixed the age of the Guptas to be the third and fourth centuries after Christ<sup>1</sup> The terminal date, the year 319 A. D., was first determined by Mr. E. Thomas, in 1848, in a memoir on the dynasty of the Sah kings of Sumāshtra, which was published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society His determination was based on certain passages of the Arab historian, Abu Rihan Al-Biruni, which had been translated and published by Mr Remand.<sup>2</sup> It is true, it was at first strongly contested by Major A. Cunningham, Mr J. Fergusson and others, who attempted to establish that the Guptas were contemporaneous with the Valabhis, and reigned between the second and fifth or sixth centuries after Christ.<sup>3</sup> But the incongruity of this opinion with the clear evidence of the inscriptions and coins could not fail to assent itself in the course of time,<sup>4</sup> and the terminal date of the Gupta empire as determined by Mr Thomas may now be considered as one of those great historical landmarks, the truth of which is admittedly no more open to question

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. VI, p. 566    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIV, pp. 371, 375    See Journal, R. A. S., Vol. XII, p. 32    <sup>3</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XVII, p. 488, Vol. XXIV, p. 375    See Major A. Cunningham's *Bhilsa Topes*, p. 138, and Mr Fergusson in Journal, R. A. S., Vol. IV, p. 108, Lassen's *Indian Antiquities*, Vol. II, p. 751, Vol. III, pp. 652, 659, 660, quoted in J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, pp. 140, 143    <sup>4</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXX, pp. 145, 146, 149    Proceedings for 1875, p. 45



The determination of the initial date of the Gupta empire was a matter of much greater difficulty. It was observed very early that the Gupta kings were in the habit of employing a certain era, in which they date many of their inscriptions and coins. Thus Mr. Prinsep, in 1837, discovered that Chandra Gupta II's inscription on the Sanchi Tope bore a figured date, though he was unable to read it fully.<sup>1</sup> It was afterwards deciphered to be 93. In 1838 he discovered and partially read a series of figured dates on the Surashtrian silver coins,<sup>2</sup> and in the same year he found that the inscription on a pillar at Eran stated that it was erected in the 165th year, during the reign of Buddha Gupta. In this case, there was no difficulty in reading the date, as it was expressed in words.<sup>3</sup> There were other difficulties, however, in the record, which led to its re-examination, in 1861, by Mr Fitz Edward Hall,<sup>4</sup> who confidently, though no less erroneously, announced that by the date of the inscription he had determined that Buddha Gupta was reigning "in the year of our Lord one hundred and eight, new style."<sup>5</sup> A further date, recorded likewise in words, on the Kuhaon pillar, was also read by Mr. Prinsep in 1838; but he read it wrongly as 133 dating from the decease of Skanda Gupta.<sup>6</sup> It was partially corrected in 1861 by Mr. Fitz Edward Hall, who read it as 141, dating from the overthrow of Skanda's Gupta empire.<sup>7</sup> But it remained for Dr. R. Mitra, in 1874, to point out the true reading, that it was the year 141, dating in the Gupta era itself<sup>8</sup> At the same time

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, pp 452, 457 See also Vol. VII, p 349 <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VII, p 348. <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, pp 632, 634 <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXX, pp 14, 139 <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, pp 15, 139, 148 An earlier reference to this inscription by Mr Thomas occurs in *ibid*, Vol XXIV, p 515 Mr Fitz Edward Hall's papers led to an acrimonious controversy between him and Babu R Mitra, *ibid*, Vol. XXX, p 267, Vol XXXIV, p 58 <sup>6</sup> J A S B, Vol VII, pp 37, 31 <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXX, p 3 <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLIII, p 365

he published a newly found inscription of the same Skanda Gupta, dated in the year 116 of the Gupta era<sup>1</sup> Some years previously, in 1861, Mr Fitz Edward Hall had published two land grants of a king Hastin, which were dated in the years 156 and 163 of the Gupta era<sup>2</sup> Thus a considerable number of dates, all reckoned in the era of the Gupta kings, was gradually accumulated It seemed possible by careful examination and combination of them, to calculate, with some degree of certainty, what the initial date of the Gupta era might have been At first it was supposed that the so-called era of the Guptas might prove to be the same as the well-known Saka era This was the opinion of Dr R Mitra, the Hon'ble E C Bayley and others<sup>3</sup> But in 1880, Major-General A Cunningham, who had at first himself inclined to the Saka theory, showed after a renewed and very carefully conducted examination of all the given dates and other evidences, that that theory was untenable, and that, in all probability, the initial year of the Gupta era was 166 A D, being the year of the accession of Chandragupta I<sup>4</sup> This view, or some modification of it, has every promise of ultimately meeting with universal assent, and being the final verdict of the historic researches, regarding the Gupta dynasty, continued through exactly one half of the century

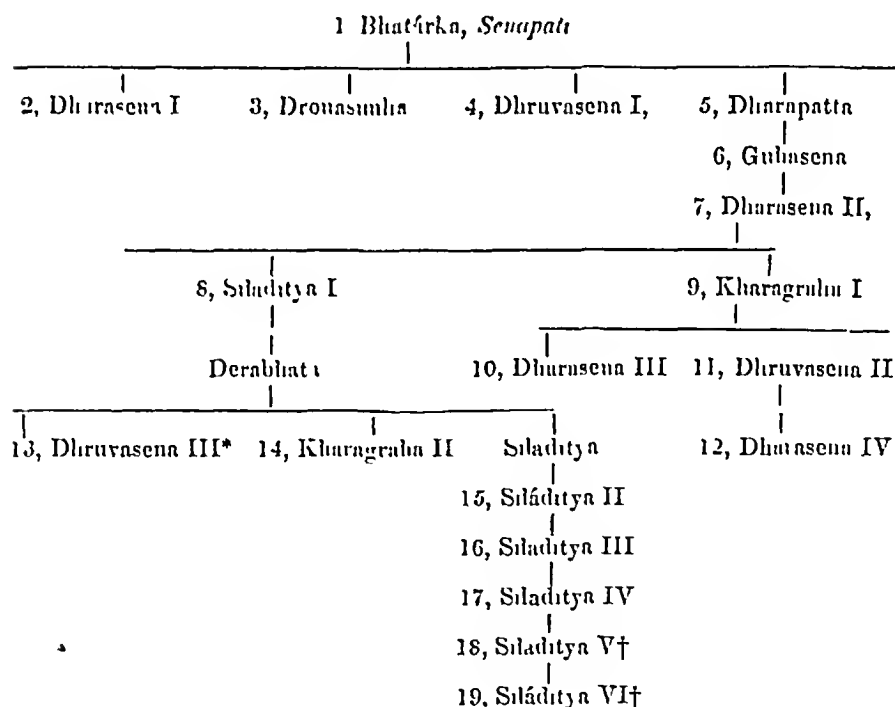
The investigation into the chronology of the Gupta kings, as has been already mentioned incidentally, was most intimately connected with the identification of another

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XLIII p 363 Proceedings for 1865 p 45 <sup>2</sup> J A S B, Vol XXX p 1 A further date, the year 82 during Chandragupta II's reign, was published by Major A Cunningham, in *Bhilsa Topes* p 151, also the dates 191 and 209 of the Gupta era, in his *Archæological Survey Reports* Vol IX, pp 13, 15

<sup>3</sup> J A S B Vol XLIII p 372 Proceedings for 1875 pp 45 46 <sup>4</sup> See General A Cunningham's *Archæological Survey Reports*, Vol X, Appendix.



editors) added one more name from a third copperplate, discovered by Dr A Burns at Kaira<sup>1</sup> Quite recently in 1877 and 1878 two further names have been discovered by Dr G Buhler, which at present complete the list of Valabhi rulers and bring it up to the number of nineteen.<sup>2</sup> That list, as it stands now, is the following, the order of succession is indicated by numbers; the unnumbered individuals do not appear to have reigned; those marked with \* and † were added by Mr Prinsep and Dr. Buhler, respectively.



Mr Wathen pointed out that it appeared from the terms of the land grants of these Valabhi rulers, that the two earliest members of the dynasty held only the position of a

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VII, p 966  
Vol VII p 80

<sup>2</sup> See Indian Antiquary, Vol VI p 17,



177<sup>1</sup> On reconsidering the question in 1838, Mr Prinsep came to the conclusion that the Valabhi dates must refer to the Vikramāditya Samvat, the initial year of which is B. C. 56. His reasons were, that the grants themselves did not name the Valabhi Samvat, and that hence the mere word *samvat* should, as usual, signify the samvat or era of Vikramāditya. Moreover, as his revised readings of the dates of the grants showed them to be of the third and fourth centuries, Mr Prinsep seems to have thought, that, if calculated on the Valabhi era, they would bring the date of the Valabhi rulers much lower down than could be fairly assigned to them on other considerations.<sup>2</sup> Ten years later, on a renewed reconsideration of the question, in 1848, Mr. Thomas proposed to refer the Valabhi dates to the Saka era.<sup>3</sup> He was followed in this opinion by Dr Bhandarkar in 1868,<sup>4</sup> and by Professor Bhandarkar, in 1872.<sup>5</sup> The main reasons were, that at the period of the Valabhi land grants the Saka era was known to have been used in other records; that the same era was used by the Satrap dynasty of Śunāśhtra, and that, therefore it was most probable, that the Valabhi dynasty which superseded that of the Satraps, continued the use of the era which had been current under their predecessors.<sup>6</sup> Three years later, however, in 1875, Dr G. Bühler proved from a newly found land grant, that the theory of the Valabhi grants being dated in the Saka era was untenable.<sup>7</sup> Another step in advance was made in 1878, when Dr Bühler discovered from another newly recovered Valabhi land grant

<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol IV, pp 478, 497 See Indian Antiquary Vol VII, p 80

<sup>2</sup> J A S B, Vol VII, pp 354, 367, 368 <sup>3</sup> See Journal, R A S Vol XII

<sup>4</sup> See Journal, Bombay Branch R A S, Vol VIII, pp 232, 233 <sup>5</sup> See Indian Antiquary, Vol I, pp 45, 61 He abandoned this opinion two years later, see Vol III, p 304 <sup>6</sup> See Indian Antiquities, Vol. I, p 61 <sup>7</sup> See Indian Antiquary, Vol. IV, p 167

that Silāditya VI, the last in the present list, also bore the name of Dhruvabhata, under which name, as M Eugene Jaquet had already pointed out more than forty years ago in 1836, that king was known to the Chinese traveller Hwentsang, when he visited him not long after A D. 639<sup>1</sup> The conclusion was inevitable that, as Silāditya VI's grant was dated 447, the initial year of the era of the plates must fall either shortly before or shortly after the year 200 A.D.<sup>2</sup> It has been stated previously,<sup>3</sup> that about this very time the investigation into the chronology of the Gupta dynasty had led to the conclusion, that the initial year of the Gupta era must be A D. 166, or some year between that date and A D 200. On the whole, therefore, the opinion has the greatest probability in its favour, that the era in which the Valabhi plates are dated is the Gupta era, the use of which was naturally continued by the Valabhi rulers, after the fall of the Guptas under whom for a time they had been sub-kings. It is certain that the rule of the Valabhis embraces a period of at least two hundred and forty years. divisible among eleven generations, because the oldest known grant of Dhruvasena is dated 207, while the latest of Silāditya VI bears date 447. And it is in every way most probable that the period of the whole dynasty runs from the end of the second to the middle of the seventh century after Christ.

The close of the rule of the Valabhis carries us already well into the middle ages of Indian history. During those ages India was divided into a considerable number of principalities, of more or less extent and importance, and ruled by a variety of dynastic races which entertained the most changing relations to one another, sometimes of peace sometimes of war, and generally of varying interdependence.

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B. Vol. V pp 685, 687

<sup>2</sup> See *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. VII pp 80, 81.

<sup>3</sup> See page 113

Foremost amongst them, commencing in the west of India, are the Brahmanic rulers of Kabul and the Panjáb, the Utpala dynasty of Kashmir, the Maharájas of Káingia, the Chauháns of Ajmir and Dehli, the Pramaras of Malwa, the Kachwáhas of Gwalior, the Chandel princes of Mahoba, the Rathor house of Kanauj, the Pála kings of Bihár and Bengal, and the Sena dynasty of Bengal. The main and only trustworthy source of information on the history of these races and dynasties and their mutual relations to one another are their inscriptions and their coins. The long genealogical lists of their members, which are preserved in chronicles and in the epics of bards, are only of subordinate and doubtful value. Though the diligent researches carried on through the whole of the century, with the help of those materials, have succeeded in reducing to some sort of order the confused and conflicting history of India's middle ages, there still remain many obscurities and discrepancies to be cleared away before that history can be said to be satisfactorily established. The Asiatic Society of Bengal contributed its share to those researches: nor was it a small one, at least with regard to four dynasties already named, the Rathors and their predecessors in Kanauj, the Chandels of Mahoba, and the Pálas and Senas of Bengal. With respect to the others, the contributions of the Society were much smaller, consisting rather in the supply of materials, than in establishing historical deductions from them, an operation which was left to the successful researches of other individuals and societies.

The kingdom of Kanauj was one of the first among the Hindu principalities of the middle ages to attract the attention of the Society through a copper land grant discovered about 1807. It was brought to the notice of Mr. H. T. Colebrooke, who published a translation in the Asiatic Researches.



It proved to be a grant, dated A. D. 1164, of Rāja Vijaya Chandra of Kanauj, the father of Rāja Jaya Chandra, who was already known from the *Am-i-Akbari* to have lost his kingdom in the Muhammadan conquest of A. D. 1193. It also gave the whole ancestry of Rāja Vijaya Chandra extending to six generations.<sup>1</sup> In 1825 Professor H. H. Wilson published another grant from Captain E. Fell's collection. This time it was a grant of Rāja Jaya Chandra himself, dated A. D. 1177, and from it Professor Wilson was able to correct the first name of the Rāja's ancestry, Yasovigraha, which, on the previous occasion, had been misread as Sri-pāla.<sup>2</sup> The family whose genealogy consisting of seven generations had thus been recovered, belonged to the Rathor race of Rajputs, and the discovery of its true ancestry was all the more valuable, as the traditional one, known from Colonel Tod's *Annals of Rajasthan*,<sup>3</sup> differed entirely from it.<sup>4</sup> The truth of the ancestry, as given in the contemporary land grants, could, of course, not be questioned, but it was curiously confirmed by the discovery of coins, on which some of the names of the newly found Rathor line could be deciphered. These coins were found in great abundance, especially in the vicinity of the site of ancient Kanauj, but they were never noticed nor recognized till 1832, when Professor H. H. Wilson described and delineated two coins of Rāja Govinda Chandra, the grandfather of Jaya Chandra, in the *Asiatic Researches*.<sup>5</sup> Three years later, in 1835, Mr. Prinsep not only confirmed Professor H. H. Wilson's discovery, but succeeded in verify-

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<sup>1</sup> *As Res*, Vol. IX, pp 400, 441. See also the reprint *Miscellaneous Essays*, Vol. II, p 253. Mr. Colebrooke erroneously identified Vijaya Chandra with his son Jaya Chandra. <sup>2</sup> *As Res*, Vol. XV, pp 446, 463, 460, 461. <sup>3</sup> See *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, Vol. II, pp 5-7 (pp 4, 5 in the 2nd edition). See also *As Res*, Vol. XV, p 461, *J A S B*, Vol. III, pp 339, 340. <sup>4</sup> *J A S B*, Vol. III, pp 263, 341, Vol. IV, pp 369, 392, 642, 669, 670. <sup>5</sup> *As Res*, Vol. XVII, p 585 (figs 48, 50).

ing another name, that of Sri Chandra Deva himself. He also pointed out, that the ascription of these coins to the Rathor Rájās of Kanauj agreed with the comparatively very modern form of the Nágari characters of their legends.<sup>1</sup> Subsequently to 1835, many more land grants of the Rathor princes have been discovered, every one of them confirming the genealogy already known from the earlier found grants. Thus in 1811, a grant of Jaya Chandra, of A. D. 1187, was published by Mr H. Torrens,<sup>2</sup> and in 1858, two grants, one dated A. D. 1125, of Govinda Chandra, the other, dated A. D. 1097, of Madanapála, the grandfather and great grandfather, respectively, of Jaya Chandra, were made known by Mr FitzEdward Hall.<sup>3</sup> All the later finds having been already fully noticed in an earlier portion of this Review,<sup>4</sup> there is no need of mentioning any of them here, except one of Govinda Chandra, published by Babu Rájendralála Mitra in 1873,<sup>5</sup> which fully confirmed an observation already previously made by Mr Colebrooke, Professor H. H. Wilson and others,<sup>6</sup> that the two first members of the line, Yasovigraha and Mahi Chandra, were not kings of Kanauj, but that the third, Sri Chandra having conquered Kanauj, became its first king of the Rathor house. From the same inscription it also appeared, that the last member of the preceding dynasty was a certain Rája Bhoja after whose death a period of disturbance ensued under a certain Rája Sri Karlla, and that during this period the Rathor prince Sri Chandra possessed himself of the

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B. Vol. IV, pp. 668-670 (figs. 7-8). The coins have Ajaya Chandra, which may signify as Mr Prinsep thought Jaya Chandra but more probably the first king Sri Chandra, who is called 'Vijaya' in the inscription of 1873, see J. A. S. B. Vol. XLII pp. 321-322. <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, p. 98. <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVII, p. 217. <sup>4</sup> See above, Chapter I. <sup>5</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XLII pp. 314, 322. A counterpart of this inscription, dated A.D. 1111, and found at Ráhan in the Ltawn district, was published by Dr. Mitra in the Proceedings for 1876, p. 130. <sup>6</sup> As Res., Vol. IX, p. 441, Vol. XV, pp. 461, 462. J. A. S. B., Vol. XXVII, p. 218.

throne of Kanauj as the first of his dynasty of kings<sup>1</sup> With the help supplied by all these land grants it was possible to fix accurately the period of the rule of the Rathor house of Kanauj as having extended from about A. D. 1050 to the year 1193<sup>2</sup>

Between this period and that of the Gupta dynasty of Kanauj, the termination of which was known to have occurred about the middle of the fourth century of our era, there was a long gap of about eleven centuries.<sup>3</sup> It was very improbable that the renowned kingdom of Kanauj should have been in abeyance during this long period, yet for a long time no information was forthcoming which could afford any means of filling up the mysterious break in its history. It is true, it was known as early as 1825, through the researches of Professor H H Wilson in Sanskrit literature, that two kings, named Yasovarman and Sahasanka, reigned in Kanauj about the middle of the eighth and tenth centuries respectively.<sup>4</sup> Afterwards the researches of Mr FitzEdward Hall, which were confirmed from the journal of the Chinese traveller Hwen-thsang, made known three members of a dynasty, Prabhākara, Rājya and Harsha, who were kings of Kanauj in the first half of the seventh century.<sup>5</sup> But these instances, isolated as they were, left untouched nearly one half of the chasm referred to above. It was not till 1862 that the history of this portion of the gap was supplied by Mr. FitzEdward Hall from a land

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<sup>1</sup> The opening lines of this inscription have been misunderstood. The Vijayī, or 'Victorious King,' of verse 2, is Sri Chandra Deva himself. He is said to be the son of Mahāśāla (or Mahāpāla), another name of Mahā Chandra (see J A S B Vol IV, p 670, and to have belonged to the Rajput race of Gaharwālas, who are of the same family as the Rathors (see Elliot's Races of the N W Provinces of India, Vol I, p 121). <sup>2</sup> J A S B, Vol XXVII, p 218, Vol XXXI, p 8, Vol XXXIII, p 232. <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol III p 339, Vol IV p 640. <sup>4</sup> *As Re-* Vol XV, pp 45, 86, 463. J A S B Vol III pp 268 339, Vol XXXI, pp 9, 10. <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol XXXI, p 2, Vol XXXIII, p 231.

grant which had been published by Babu Rájendralála Mitra as early as 1848, but the attribution of which had not been recognized<sup>1</sup> This inscription names a dynasty of Mahodaya or Kanauj, consisting of eight individuals<sup>2</sup> Two years later, in 1864, Major A Cunningham succeeded, with the help of another already known, but hitherto imperfectly read, inscription from Gwalior,<sup>3</sup> in determining the period of the rule of the newly found dynasty as extending from about the middle of the eighth to the middle of the tenth centuries<sup>4</sup> This determination established a fairly continuous history of the kingdom of Kanauj from the eighth to the twelfth century, the only obscurity that has remained being the exact connection between the two dynasties whose rule fell within that period<sup>5</sup>

Contemporaneously with the later kingdom of Kanauj there flourished a smaller kingdom at Mahoba, in the modern Bundelkhand, the rulers of which belonged to the Rajput clan of Chandels It was first brought to the notice of the Society in 1813, when Lieutenant William Price found a large inscribed stone on a rocky hill in the vicinity of the town of Man, about ten miles from Chattarpur, on which he noticed a Sanskrit inscription containing a genealogy of an unknown line of Hindu princes A copy of this record he published in the Asiatic Researches Unfortunately it was in a very mutilated condition, but what remained proved to contain the history of ten princes, with the names of their ministers<sup>6</sup> It was not known at the time who these princes were, but from the comparatively very modern type of its characters and from the

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B Vol XVII, p 71    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXI, p 5    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXII, p 673, Vol XXXII p 97    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXIII, p 229 See also Vol XXXII, p 96    <sup>5</sup> See Appendix I    <sup>6</sup> As Res, Vol XII, p 357, see also J A S B, Vol XXXII, p 275, Vol XLVII, pp 73, 74



recorded in these inscriptions was that of the Chandel princes, who founded the town of Mahoba<sup>1</sup>. At the same time he was able to construct mainly from the dates supplied by their inscriptions a trustworthy chronological order of their succession which showed that the period of the rule of the Chandel dynasty extended from the beginning of the ninth to the end of the twelfth century<sup>2</sup> beginning with Nanka and ending with Paramardi Deva, who was defeated and expelled from Mahoba by Rāja Prithmāy of Dehli in A. D. 1182. General Cunningham's deductions on the history and chronology of the dynasty were afterwards in 1879 and 1881 verified and in some points revised, by Mr V. A. Smith who especially added whatever few and indistinct notices could be discovered of Rāja Paramardi's obscure successors preceding the rise of the Bundel power in the fourteenth century<sup>3</sup>.

A third kingdom contemporary with those of Mahoba and Kanauj, was that of Gam in Bengal, ruled by a dynasty bearing the family name of Pāla. This was the earliest of the kingdoms of the Indian middle ages, of which any notice occurs in the *Transactions of the Society*. As early as 1780, Mr Charles Wilkins discovered in the vicinity of the town of Buddal an inscription engraved on a monumental stone pillar. He succeeded in translating it in 1785, and his translation was published in 1788 in the first volume of the *Asiatic Researches*<sup>4</sup>. It was found to record three members of the Pāla dynasty which was then stated

<sup>1</sup> See General Cunningham's *Archæological Reports*, Vol. II p. 448. <sup>2</sup> See *Ibid.* p. 451. The Chandel chronology has also been discussed by Dr R. Mitra in 1863 and 1878, but partially on erroneous data, see *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. XXXII p. 276, Vol. XLVII, p. 74. <sup>3</sup> *J. A. S. B.* Vol. XLVIII p. 285, Vol. L, p. 1. <sup>4</sup> *As Res.*, Vol. I p. 131. The text and a revised translation by Babu Pratapa Chandra Ghosh are published in the *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. XLIII, p. 356.

to be reigning in Gaur or Bengal. The first of them, Deva Pála, was also stated to have made wide conquests in the South and West of India. About the same time, Mr. Wilkins discovered in the ruins of Mungir a copper land grant, a translation of which he also published, in 1788, in the same volume of the *Researches*.<sup>1</sup> This grant was also found to record three kings of the Pála dynasty, the last of whom, Deva Pála, whose conquests in the South and West of India were again prominently mentioned, was the same as the first in the list of the pillar inscription. It was noted also in this grant, that Deva Pála professed the Buddhist faith. The grant bore the date 33, which really referred to Deva Pála's reign, but which was misinterpreted by Mr. Wilkins as referring to the Vikramáditya era and thus placing the early Pálas in the first century before Christ. This error was afterwards rectified by Mr. H. T. Colebrooke, on the evidence of a third inscription discovered in 1794, in the ruins of Sárnáth, near Benares, and published by Mr. Jonathan Duncan in 1798.<sup>2</sup> This inscription not only added a new name, Mahi Pála, to the list already known, but also supplied his date Samvat 1083 equal to A. D. 1027, —the only chronological evidence hitherto come to light for fixing the true time of the Pála dynasty. A few years later, in 1807, Mr. H. T. Colebrooke made known another copper land grant, found in 1806 at Amgachhi, in the Dinájpur district of Northern Bengal. Unfortunately, this inscription was in a too mutilated condition to allow of a perfectly trustworthy translation. But it appeared to mention, in addition to the list already known, a few new names, among which that of Mahi Pála also occurred. The date of the latter being known from the Sárnáth inscription, Mr. Colebrooke

<sup>1</sup> *As Res.*, Vol. I, p. 123. See also *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. XLVII, p. 385. <sup>2</sup> *As Res.*, Vol. V, p. 131.

fixed the eighth or ninth century of our era as the probable time of the earlier Pálas,<sup>1</sup> a result which was, some years later, in 1825, endorsed by Professor H H Wilson<sup>2</sup> In 1835 the existence of king Mahā Pála was further confirmed by the discovery of one of his coins, which was published by Mr J Prinsep in the *Journal*<sup>3</sup> Still later, in 1848, the discovery by Captain M Kitto of a fifth inscription at Pesse-rawa verified the existence of Deva Pála, who is incidentally mentioned in it<sup>4</sup> In 1872, the exertions of Mr. A M Broadley brought to light a considerable number of very small dedicatory inscriptions, which not only confirmed all the names already known, but added the names of a few more princes of the Pála dynasty These latter must have reigned subsequently to Mahā Pála, as was shown by one of their inscriptions being dated A D 1175<sup>5</sup> The information which had thus gradually accumulated from all these inscriptions, enabled Major-General A Cunningham in 1873 to construct a chronological table of the Pála dynasty, according to which it appeared to have ruled from about the middle of the eighth to nearly the end of the twelfth century.<sup>6</sup> The discovery at Bhágalpur of a new inscription of Náráyana Pála, which was published by Dr Rajendralála Mitra in 1878, afforded the latter the occasion of a reconsideration of the Pála chronology, the result of which was a reduction of the period of the Pála rule by nearly a hundred years, the

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<sup>1</sup> *As Res*, Vol IX p 434, see also pp 203ff, where Capt F Wilford, misled by the untrustworthy traditional lists, altogether confuses the chronology of the Pálas Professor Wilson in *As Res*, Vol XV p 464, corrects him  
<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* Vol XV pp 464, 465    <sup>3</sup> *J A S B*, Vol IV, pp 669, 670 (fig 5) See also General Cunningham's *Archæological Reports* Vol XI, pp 176, 177 where also coins of Vighraha Pála are published    <sup>4</sup> *J A S B* Vol XVII p 492    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLI p 209, see especially pp 309-311 Some of these inscriptions, however, appear to have been known previously see General Cunningham's *Archæological Reports* Vol XI    <sup>6</sup> See his *Archæological Survey Reports*, Vol III p 134, see also Vol XI, p 181, where the period is reduced by 50 years at its beginning



founder of the dynasty, Go Pála being placed in the middle of the ninth century.<sup>1</sup> There is still not a little obscurity attaching to the Pála chronology, and further research will probably show that a further reduction of about fifty years will have to be made, bringing the founder of the dynasty down to the commencement of the 10th century.<sup>2</sup>

It was well known that between the Pála dynasty of Bengal and its conquest by the Muhammadans intervened a line of rulers which bore the family name of Sena. Certain Muhammadan histories, the *Ain-i-Akbari* and others, had recorded what professed to be chronological lists of the Bengal kings of the Sena dynasty. But these could not be considered altogether trustworthy, seeing that they differed among themselves. It was in 1838 that the first reliable evidence was obtained through the discovery in Baquirganj of a copper land grant of one of the dynasty, Kesava Sena, which Mr. J. Prinsep published in the *Journal* of that year.<sup>3</sup> This grant verified the existence of five members of the dynasty, ascending from Kesava Sena to Vijaya Sena,<sup>4</sup> the reputed first Bengal king of the Sena family. About thirty years later, in 1865, a stone inscription was found in the Rájsháhí district, which carried the family list back for three more generations. It was translated by Mr. C. T. Metcalfe, and published by Babu Rájendralála Mitra in the *Journal*.<sup>5</sup> On examination it proved to record Vijaya Sena and three of his ancestors, among whom a certain Víra Sena was named as the founder of the family. In 1875, a third inscription, found in the Dinájpúr district and published by Mr. E. V. Westmacott strikingly confirmed the

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B. Vol. XLVII, p. 354      <sup>2</sup> See Appendix II      <sup>3</sup> J. A. S. B. Vol. VII, p. 40      <sup>4</sup> It actually recorded only four names but that of the fifth, Mádhava Sena was shown by Mr. Prinsep to have stood in it originally      <sup>5</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIV, p. 123

evidence of the two previously discovered inscriptions. It was a land-grant of Lakshmana Sena, and recorded four names, two of which, Vijaya and Hemanta, occurred in the Rājshāhī inscription, while three of them, Vijaya, Ballāla and Lakshmana, were in the Bhāgalpur grant. The evidence thus accumulated not only showed that the Vijaya Sena of the two first inscriptions was the same person and the father of the well-known Ballāla Sena, but also that the joint regal and pre-regal lines of Senas as far as Kesava Sena consisted of seven members. The whole subject of the history and chronology of the Sena dynasty was carefully examined by Dr. Rājendralāla Mitra in two papers contributed to the *Journal* in 1865 and 1878<sup>1</sup>. In the course of his enquiry he showed that the Sena family did not belong as is now commonly believed, to the vaidya or medical caste, but that they were, as distinctly stated in their own inscriptions, members of the kshatriya or military caste. He also proved that Vijaya Sena was the same as Sukha Sena mentioned in the Muhammadan histories as the father of Ballāla Sena and first Sena king of Bengal, that the Lakshmanīya, mentioned in the same histories as reigning at the time of the Muhammadan conquest, was the successor of Kesava Sena, and that the traditional Adisena, who introduced the five Brahmans and Kayasths into Bengal, was probably identical with Vīra Sena,<sup>2</sup> the founder of the family. But the most important point which he was successful in establishing was the fact of the existence of an era, called after Lakshmana, and dating from A. D. 1106, the year of his accession. The mere fact of the existence of such an era had been already indistinctly

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIV, p. 128, Vol. XLVII p. 396      <sup>2</sup> Rather with Vijaya Sena, the founder of the regal portion of the family, see Appendix II

unknown or conflicting dates; such as the limits of the reigns of Fakhruddín Mubárák Sháh, Násiruddín Mahmúd Sháh I, Sikandar Sháh II, Saifuddín Fírúz Sháh II and others<sup>1</sup> The general results of his chronological researches into the history of the independent Sultans of Bengal he exhibited in a comparative table, showing the names and dates of twenty-four Sultans, as reported in the Muhamminadan histories and as determined by the inscriptions and coins of the Sultans themselves. The period of their collective rule was thus shown to cover exactly two centuries, from A. H. 739 to 944,<sup>2</sup> or A. D. 1338 to 1537.

So far those portions of the history of India have been noticed, in the investigation and establishment of which the Asiatic Society took a more prominent and extended part. It has been already mentioned, however, that there are many other portions of Indian history with respect to which the Society, at least, collected or supplemented materials for the prosecution of the researches of others enjoying better opportunities or a larger amount of leisure. To this category belong the genealogical tables published in 1835, by Mr. J. Prinsep, in the fourth volume of the *Journal*<sup>3</sup> In the same volume he also made known a number of coins of the Hindu rulers of Kabul and of the Chohán and other Rajput princes, which were afterwards found to throw much light on the history of those dynasties<sup>4</sup> In the following year, 1836, he made known a few coins of the Mahárájas of Kashmir. Though he pointed out their similarity to the earlier Indo-Scythian coins of the so-called Ardokro type, he

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XLII, pp. 252, 269, 281, 287      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 308-310

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, Appendix      <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 674 See Mr. E. Thomas' and Sir E. Clive Bayley's papers on the Hindu kings of Kabul in the *Numismatic Chronicle* See also J. A. S. B., Vol. IV, p. 367, for the Shekarati inscription published by Dr. Mill and referring to the Choháns

did not recognize their true attribution.<sup>1</sup> This was done some years afterwards, in 1813, by General A. Cunningham.<sup>2</sup> Some more information was added by Mr C. J. Rodgers, in 1879, in the pages of the *Journal*.<sup>3</sup> Considerable help on this subject was rendered by Professor H. H. Wilson in 1825, and Lieutenant D. J. F. Newall in 1854, by publishing memoirs in the *Asiatic Researches* and the *Journal on the Hindū and Muhammadan history of Kashmir*.<sup>4</sup> In 1836 and 1838 Mr L. Wilkinson published two copper land-grants of the Pāmāra Rājās of Malwa, which helped to adjust the order of succession of those princes.<sup>5</sup> In 1837 Mr J. Prinsep published several coins of Buddhist Rājās of Ceylon, from which he was able to verify several of the royal names recorded in the Buddhist chronicles of that island and made known through the investigations of the Hon. ble G. Tinnon.<sup>6</sup> In the same year Captain W. H. Sleeman contributed a short memoir on the history of the Garha Mandala Rājās.<sup>7</sup> In the *Journal* for 1845 there followed an account of the early Abdalīs by Major R. Leech,<sup>8</sup> and in 1850 and 1851 two memoirs by Dr A. Sprenger on the Ghassanide kings and the chronology of Mekkah and the Hijaz before Muhammad.<sup>9</sup>—all based on Muhammadan histories. In 1863 Babu Rājendralāla Mitra, in a paper on “Vestiges of the Kings of Gwalior,” made known some inscriptions of the Kachwāha princes of that country.<sup>10</sup> The volumes for 1878 and 1879 contain a native chronicle of the Bangash Nawabs of Ferozabad, translated

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. V, p. 651.    <sup>2</sup> See the *Numismatic Chronicle* on the Coinage of Kashmir.    <sup>3</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XLVIII, pp. 277-282.    <sup>4</sup> *As. Res.*, Vol. XV, p. 1, and J. A. S. B., Vol. XXIII, p. 409.    <sup>5</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. V, p. 377, Vol. VII, p. 736.    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 298, see also p. 378.    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 622.    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, p. 445.    <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIX, p. 469, Vol. XX, p. 349.    <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXI, p. 391.

by Mr. Irvine.<sup>1</sup> In 1880 Mr. C. J. Rodgers published a few coins of the Mahārājas of Kāngra, throwing further light on the history of those princes, which had been already investigated by General A. Cunningham in his *Archæological Reports* <sup>2</sup>

Other contributions have more the character of biographies. To these belong the notices on the life of Buddha, published in 1836 in the *Asiatic Researches* by the well-known traveller, M. Alexander Csoma Korosi, from Tibetan authorities <sup>3</sup> The *Journal* of the same year contains a memoir by Mr. Johannes Avdall on the life and writings of S. Nierses Clajensis, surnamed the Graceful, Pontiff of Armenia;<sup>4</sup> and in the *Journal* for 1838 there is a brief account by Munshi Mohan Lal of the origin of the Daud Putias, and of the power and birth of Bahawal Khan, their chief, on the Ghara and Indus.<sup>5</sup>

The *Transactions* of the Society also contain a number of monographs, on the history of various countries in India or nearly connected with India. The object of the authors was to reproduce, for the purposes of further investigation whatever there appeared to be valuable in the native chronicles and annals of those countries. The help afforded by these contributions has, in several cases, proved invaluable. Particularly was this the case with regard to Professor H. H. Wilson's Essay on the history of Kashmir, which has been already mentioned in connection with the Kashmir coins,<sup>6</sup> and Mr. A. Stirling's account, geographical, statistical and historical, of Orissa Proper or Cuttack.<sup>7</sup> The latter memoir was partly based on a native chronicle,

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XLVII, p. 259, and Vol. XLVIII, p. 48      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIX, p. 10      See *Archæological Reports*, Vol. V, p. 155      <sup>3</sup> *As. Res.*, Vol. XX, p. 245  
<sup>4</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. V, p. 129      <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 27      <sup>6</sup> *As. Res.*, Vol. XV, p. 1  
<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 163

a translation of which by Mr A Stirling was published, after his death, in the Journal of 1837<sup>1</sup> On the history of Arakan, and of the countries of Further India generally, there are a considerable number of contributions, *viz* in 1828, a historical and statistical sketch of Arakan, by Mr Charles Paton,<sup>2</sup> in 1835, a history of Naning in the Malay Peninsula, by Lieut J T Newbold,<sup>3</sup> in 1837, a history of Labong, from the native records, by Dr D Richardson,<sup>4</sup> and some account of the wars between Burmah and China from Burmese documents, by Lieutenant-Colonel H Burney<sup>5</sup> Later, the history of Arakan was again made the subject of much careful investigation by Major-General Sir Arthur P. Phayre, who published his results in a series of papers and memoirs contributed to the Journal<sup>6</sup> These are . in 1841. an account of Arakan, in 1844, a history of Arakan, in 1864, 1868 and 1869, a history of the Burma race; in 1873 and 1874, a history of Pegu He also published in 1846 some coins of Arakan in illustration of his researches on its history;<sup>7</sup> the same was done by Lieut Thomas Latten in the same year,<sup>8</sup> by Captain (now Colonel) G E Fyfe in 1872,<sup>9</sup> and by Dr Rájendrálala Mitra in 1880<sup>10</sup> Some information on the ancient history of Ásám is contained in Captain G E Westmacott's description of ancient temples and ruins at Chardwai, published in 1835;<sup>11</sup> and on that of Kúch Bihar in Dr Buchanan's account of Rangpur<sup>12</sup> On the history of both Kúch Bihar and Ásám, Mr H Blochmann published a memoir in 1872, based on the Akbarnámah,

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI p 756    <sup>2</sup> As Res, Vol XVI, p 353    <sup>3</sup> J A S B, Vol IV, p 297    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid* Vol VI p 55    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid* pp 121 405 542    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol X p 679, Vol XIII p 23, Vol XXXIII p 1 Vol XXXVII, p 74, Vol XXXVIII, p 29, Vol XLII, pp 23 120, Vol XLIII p 6    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XV, p 232    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid* p 238    <sup>9</sup> *Ibid* Vol XLI p 201    <sup>10</sup> Proceedings for 1880, p 53    <sup>11</sup> J A S B Vol IV, p 185    <sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VII, p 1

Padishahnámah and the Fathiyah-i-'Ibriyah.<sup>1</sup> The early history of Sindh, as related in the Chachnámah and other Persian authorities, was treated by Lieutenant Postans in several papers inserted in the Journals for 1838, 1841 and 1845.<sup>2</sup> On the history of South India from 1564-1687 there is a memoir by Colonel Mackenzie in 1844,<sup>3</sup> and in 1872 a short paper by Mr. T. W. Rhys David on the conquest of South India by Parákrama Bahu, the great king of Ceylon.<sup>4</sup> On the origion of the Afghan people Lieut. (now Major) H. G. Raverty contributed some remarks in 1854.<sup>5</sup> In the volume for 1871 there is a history of the Gakkhars, one of the Panjáb clans, by Mr. J. G. Delmerick.<sup>6</sup> The volumes for 1881 and 1882 contain a series of contributions on the history, religion, etc., of Thibet from Babu Sarat Chandra Das.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol. XLI, p 49      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. VII, p 93, Vol. X, pp 183, 267, Vol. XIV, pp 75, 155      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XIII, pp 421, 578      <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XLI, p 197      <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXIII, p 550      <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XL, p 67.      <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. LI, pp 187, 206, 211, 235, Vol. LI, pp 1, 15, 53, 58, 87, 99, 115, 121

## CHAPTER V.

## LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

[Sanskrit — Prakrit, Pali — Gaudian Sindhi, Panjabi, Kashmiri, Hindi and Urdu, Bihari, Bengali, Gipsy, — Indo-Aryan Kaffiri, Brahui, Baluchi, Pashtu, Chilas, Dardi, Galchah — Aboriginal Dravidian, Kolarian, Fijeto-Birman, Indo-Chinese, Malayan — Arabic — Persian — General ]

Next to the classical countries of Greece and Rome, there is none which has rendered more important services to the science of Philology than India. It has presented that science, both, with a new classical literature, almost unbounded in its wealth, and with a new system which by its comparative method has gone far to revolutionize the science altogether. It has achieved this great result through its ancient language, the Sanskrit ; and it has fallen to the proud lot of the Asiatic Society of Bengal to contribute the first step to its accomplishment.

It is now nearly one hundred years ago, that, in 1789, Sir William Jones, the founder of the Society, published his translation of the Sanskrit drama, the *Sakuntalá*. Of that work it may fairly be said that it was the starting point of Sanskrit philology.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, feeling how useful it would be to the learned and essential to the student and translator, he elaborated and published in 1788, in the first volume of the *Researches*, a system of transcribing Asiatic, and especially Sanskrit, words into Roman letters, in which he aimed at securing the double advantage of rendering Asiatic words letter for letter,

<sup>1</sup> See Professor Max Müller's *History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature*, p 1



while preserving their correct pronunciation.<sup>1</sup> His system, still known as the Jonesian, prevailed for a long time till it was superseded by others, which only excelled it by following out its principles in a simpler and more consistent manner.<sup>2</sup>

Having thus fairly started Sanskrit philology on its way, the Society was unable for some time to take any very active share in the further prosecution of its study. The opportunities and qualifications for such a task were much more abundantly present in Europe, and there were many other objects, natural and literary, connected with India, which more directly engaged the Society's attention and admitted of more easy investigation. Nevertheless, it did what lay in its power to further the study of Sanskrit and the publication of its literature. In 1806, it instituted the *Bibliotheca Asiatica*, in which it was intended "to publish, from time to time, as their funds would admit of it, translations of short works in the Sanskrit and other Asiatic languages, or extracts and descriptive accounts of books of greater length in those languages"<sup>3</sup> To this series of oriental publications contributions were invited from every quarter. For many years no response was made to the Society's invitations, and it was not until the year 1847 that it became possible to make an actual beginning of the series, under a new name and in a considerably modified form. In this series, which now received the name of the *Bibliotheca Indica*, it was intended to publish the texts, and, as far as practicable, translations of such oriental works as those of which manuscripts had become rare, or which, from the nature

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<sup>1</sup> As Res, Vol I, p 1    <sup>2</sup> See J A S B, Vol III, p 281, and Proceedings for 1867, p 80.    <sup>3</sup> As Res, Vol XII, Appendix, p vii

of their subject-matter, could not be expected to be published by private enterprise.

The first work, the publication of which was taken into contemplation, was an edition of the whole of the Vedas ; and an actual commencement was made in 1847 of the preparation of the Rig Veda Samhitá, under the editorship of Dr Roer.<sup>1</sup> But as only a few months afterwards it became known "that the Court of Directors had sanctioned the immediate publication of the Rig Veda in London, to be edited by Professor Max Muller, with a translation by Professor Wilson," the Society's edition was at once abandoned in favour of that now well-known great edition,<sup>2</sup> and in its place it was resolved to publish an edition of the Upanishads, or the philosophical parts of the Vedas.<sup>3</sup> Their publication was entrusted to Dr Roer, who commenced the series in 1849, with an edition of the text of eleven Upanishads,—*viz*, the Aitareya, the Bṛihad Aranyaka, Taittiráya, Isa, Katha, Svetásvatara, Chhándogya, Kena, the Prasna, Mundaka, and Mandukya.<sup>4</sup> The first named of these Upanishads belonged to the Rig Veda; the next five to the Yajur Veda, the following two to the Sáma Veda, and the last three to the Atharva Veda. Their text was accompanied with the commentary (or bháshya) of Sankara Achárya and the gloss (or tiká) of Anandagiri in every case, except the Svetásvatara, of which Anandagiri's gloss could not be obtained. In the case of the Mandukya the explanation (or káriká) of Gaudapada was also given in addition to the other commentaries. All these Upanishads had been published before by others in a more

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XVI, pp 496, 505, 1259    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid* pp 1090, 1267    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 1268    <sup>4</sup> For a full statement of the titles &c, of these and all other editions of the Bibliotheca Indica referred to in the following pages, see Appendix C to the Historical Part of the Centenary Review



kara Ananda Two other Upanishads of the Atharva Veda are the Nṛsimha Tāpanī and the Gopāla Tāpanī, both of which were published in 1870, the first by Pandit Rāmamīya Tarkuṭṭa, with the commentary of Sankara Achārya; the other by Pandits Hara Chandra Vidyābhūṣana and Visvanātha Sastri, with the commentary of Visvesvara

Originally the Upanishads had their place in the Aranyakas and Brāhmanas. Several works belonging to the latter two classes of Vedic literature were edited in the Bibliotheca Indica. The publication of the Taittīya Brāhmaṇa of the Yajur Veda, with the commentary (or bhāṣya) of Savana Achārya, was commenced by Babu Rājendralāla Mitra in 1855, and that of the Taittīya Aranyaka of the same Veda in 1864. In the introduction to the latter edition he gave a complete analysis of the work in English, and the table of contents noticed the subjects of the mantras *seriatim*. In 1869, Pandit Ananda Chandra Vedāntavāgīśa followed with the publication of the Tāndya Mahābrāhmaṇa, the largest and most important of the Sāma Veda, containing the earliest speculations on the origin, nature, and purport of a number of Hindu sacrifices, rites, and ceremonies, and interspersed with a variety of anecdotes of great interest. In the following year, 1870, the publication of the Gopatha Brāhmaṇa, the only extant one of the Atharva Veda, was entrusted to Pandit Hara Chandra Vidyābhūṣana, who edited about one-half of it, and after his death, to Babu Rājendralāla Mitra, who completed it and added a very full analytical introduction. Unfortunately, no manuscripts of any commentary being available, it was only possible to publish the text<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1872, p. 14, see also Introduction to the Gopatha, p. 38



form in which they appeared, not Sámas but Rig verses" In the edition of the Society "the Rig collection was adopted as the basis, and to every verse of it were added all the various transformations which it had undergone in changing from the Rig to the Sáma, including all the musical notations, as also the commentary of Sayana on the text Thus, practically, the Society's edition comprised six different works,—namely, the Aichika, the four Gánas, and the commentary of Sayana, and the bulk of the edition was necessarily greatly increased thereby ; but it was hoped that it would afford to oriental scholars the most complete edition of the Sáma Samhitá The plan adopted disturbed, in some places, the order in which the Gánas appear, in their respective collections, but this was unavoidable. To remedy the defect full indexes were supplied at the beginning of each volume" "The manuscripts used, all belonged to the North Indian recension, with prosodical marks differing in some respects from those which are current in Southern India, but the principal peculiarity, being the use of figures instead of letters to indicate the notes of the Gamut, is not of much importance"<sup>1</sup>

Next to the Vedas, the Vedángas, or the sciences subsidiary to them, claimed the greatest attention. These include phonology, grammar, prosody, glossary, rituals, and astronomy ; the most important being the rituals or 'sútras.' They form a sort of exegesis of the Vedas, and it is impossible to understand the Vedic Mantias, and the most ancient laws, customs, and domestic rites of the Hindus without a careful study of these works The attention of the Society was, therefore, early directed to collect materials for their publication<sup>2</sup> This necessarily

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1877, p 35, for 1879, p 26

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* for 1872, pp 14, 15

occupied considerable time ; and it was not before 1864 that a commencement could be made with the Sûtras or ritual works. These consists of two different classes, the Śrauta Sûtras and the Grihya Sûtras, treating of sacrificial and domestic ritual respectively. In 1864, the publication of the Śrauta Sûtras of Asvalāyana, belonging to the Rig Veda, was taken in hand by Pandit Rāma Nārāyana Vidyāratna ; and in 1866, that of the Grihya Sûtra of the same author and the same Veda, by Pandit Ananda Chandra Vedāntavāgīśa. The editors added to the text of both Sûtras the commentary of Gaṅga Nārāyana, as well as elaborate indexes composed in Sanskrit by themselves<sup>1</sup> The second of the two editors continued his labours in 1870, by the publication of the Śrauta Sûtra of Lātyāyana, belonging to the Sāma Veda, to which he similarly added both the commentary (or bhāṣya) of Agnisvāmin and an index of his own. In the following year, 1871, an edition was undertaken by Pandit Chandra Kānta Tarkālakāra, of the Gobhīlīya Grihya Sûtra of the Sāma Veda, to which he added several appendixes (or pañśishtas) containing the Śrāddhakalpa, Sandhivā Sûtra, and Śnāna Sûtra of Gobhila himself, and the Grihya Saṅgraha of a son of Gobhila.<sup>2</sup> The commentary which the editor published with the text, he had compiled himself with the aid of two defective MSS. and the glosses on the Sûtras of his Appendixes.<sup>3</sup> Ten years later, in 1881, the publication of the Apastamba Śrauta Sûtra, belonging to the Black Yajur Veda, was commenced by Professor R. Garbe. This is a very rare and important ritual work, of which for a long time, till Mr. Burnell's successful researches, no complete manuscripts were available. To the text is

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1870, p. 32<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* for 1878, p. 17.<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* for 1877

added Rudra Datta's commentary, which, however, unfortunately does not extend to more than about two-thirds of the *Sûtra* <sup>1</sup>

On the Vedic prosody the leading work is the *Chhandah Sûtra* of Pingala Achârya. Of this, as well as of a commentary on it by Halâdyudha, an edition was published in 1871 by Pandit Visvanâtha Sâstri

Each Veda has its own separate system of phonology, or *Prâtisâkhyâ*. As the Society had already undertaken the publication of the Black Yajur Veda, it was resolved, in 1854, to print the *Prâtisâkhyâ* of that Veda, and the task was confided to Babu Râjendralâla Mitra, the editor of the *Taittirîya Brâhmana*. Want of leisure, however, delayed the publication till 1871, when the text appeared together with its commentary, called the *Tilblâshvairatna* <sup>2</sup>

Vedic etymological lexicography is represented by *one* work, generally known by the name of Yâska's *Nuukta*. Professor Roth's well-known edition of this work having been long out of print, the Society, in 1880, entrusted the task of bringing out another edition to Pandit Satyavirata Sâmâsramî, who had just successfully brought to a close his edition of the *Sâma Samhitâ*. His text of the *Nuukta* is accompanied by extracts from various commentaries

Next to the literature of the Vedas, that connected with the six Darśanas, or philosophical schools of the Hindus, attracted the attention of the Society. The original text-books of all the six schools were gradually published <sup>3</sup>. The earliest to be edited were the *Brahma Sûtras*, or the aphorisms of the Vedânta School, by Bâdarâyana. They were published, together with the

<sup>1</sup> See Preface to the edition, p. 9      <sup>2</sup> Proceedings for 1872, pp. 15, 18

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* for 1872, p. 15



commentary of Sankara Achárya and the gloss of Govinda Ananda, in 1853, by Pandit Ráma Náráyana Vidyaratna. An English translation was commenced in 1870 by the Rev. K. M. Banerjea, but not continued much beyond the first section. Among the many commentaries extant on Sankara's exposition of the Vedánta aphorisms of Bádaráyana, the Bhámatí of Váchaspati Misra is held in high esteem by Indian scholars, and an edition of this work was undertaken in 1875 by Pandit Bála Sástri<sup>1</sup>

The peculiar form of the Vedánta doctrine which rejects the gnostic theory that knowledge is the one thing needful, and contends that knowledge is only the handmaid of faith, *i.e.*, the doctrine of the Bhaktimárga, is also represented in the Society's series, namely, by the aphorisms of Sándhya, which were edited by Dr J. R. Ballantyne in 1861, and translated by Professor E. B. Cowell in 1878<sup>2</sup>. In this connection may be mentioned an edition, by Babu Rájendralála Mitra, in 1853, of the Chaitanya Chandrodaya Náataka, the object of which is to inculcate in a dramatic form the peculiar tenets of the Bhaktimárga.

After the Vedánta followed, in 1860, the Kanáda Sútias, or the aphorisms of the Vaisesika school. They were published by Pandit Jaya Náráyana Tarkapanchánana, who, in addition to the commentary of Sankara Misra, accompanied the text with a commentary of his own in Sanskrit. Two years later, in 1862, the Sankhyá aphorisms of Kapila were published by Dr J. R. Ballantyne, together with an English translation of the text and many extracts from Vijnána Bhikshu's commentary. Another celebrated work of the Sankhyá philosophy, the Sankhyá Prava-chana Bháshya, by Vijnána Bhikshu, had been already

<sup>1</sup> See Proceedings for 1876, p. 26      <sup>2</sup> See the Preface to the edition, also Proceedings for 1872, pp. 15, 16, for 1879, p. 26

edited by Mr FitzEdward Hall in 1851; and a third treatise, the *Saṅkhyá Sūtra*, also by Vijnāna Bhikṣu, was published by the same editor in 1865. The introduction prefixed to the later edition contains much valuable information on historic and literary questions connected with the *Saṅkhyá* philosophy. Next in order came the aphorisms of the *Pūrva Mīmāṃsā* school, by Jaimini, which, together with the commentary of Śāraṇa Svāmī, were edited in 1863 by Pandit Mahesa Chandra Nyāyaratna. In the following year, 1864, the *Gotama Sūtras*, or the aphorisms of the *Nyāya* School, were published, together with the commentary of Vātsyāyana, by Pandit Jaya Nārāyaṇa Tarkapanchāna. Another of the most celebrated works of the *Nyāya* philosophy, the *Bhāṣā Parichheda*, had been already edited and translated, in 1850, by Dr E. Roer. The *Yoga Sūtras* of Patañjali were taken up by Dr Rājendralāla Mitra in 1880, who published them with the commentary of Bhoja Rājā and an English translation of both the text and commentary, and also with an English commentary compiled by the editor himself, including short extracts from the commentaries of Vyāsa, Vijnāna Bhikṣu, and Vāchaspati Miśra.

On the minor systems of philosophy two works were published by the Society, — the general philosophical summary of Mādhyama Achārya, called the *Saṁvadaśana Saṅgraha*, which was published in 1853 by Pandit Isvara Chandra Vidyāsāgara, and the polemical disquisitions of Sankara, called the *Sankara Digvijaya*, a work of Anandagiri, which was edited in 1864 by Pandit Jaya Nārāyaṇa Tarkapanchāna.

Next to the Vedas and Darsanas, the most important branch of Sanskrit literature, from the religious and social

points of view, is represented by the Purānas. They form a distinct class, being a sort of Cyclopædia of Sanskrit literature, and have, of late, entirely superseded the religion of the Vedas. The attention of the Society was early turned to them, and four works were undertaken at different times.<sup>1</sup> Two of them, the Māikandeya Purāna and the Nāradapancharātna, were edited by the Rev K M Banerjea in 1855 and 1861 respectively; the other two, the Agni Purāna and the Vayu Purāna, were edited by Dr. Rājendralāla Mitra in 1870 and 1879 respectively.<sup>2</sup> The latter added to his edition of the Agni Purāna an English introduction, which very fully describes the contents of that work, one of the most ancient of the Purānic class.

No work belonging to the Smṛiti or law literature of the Hindu was undertaken by the Society till 1871. But in that year a commencement was made by publishing the elaborate legal digest of Hemādri, entitled the Chaturvarga Chintāmaṇi. Its real author is generally believed to have been the celebrated grammarian Vopadeva, though the work is known by the name of its patron, and the fact of Vopadeva having quoted largely from several works, now accepted to be no more than two or three hundred years old, opens a new field of enquiry. The work is a very voluminous one, and is divided into five parts (or khandas), treating severally of fasts and penances (or viatās), gifts (or dānas), times (or kālas), funeral ceremonies (or srāddhā) and supplementary matters (or parisheshas). Manuscripts of it are very rare; indeed no manuscript of the complete work has yet been discovered. Fortunately the several

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1872 p 16      <sup>2</sup> The Agni Purāna had been begun by Pandit Harachandra Vidyābhūṣana, who died after bringing out three fasciculi. The Vayu Purāna is still in course of publication.

portions of the work are practically independent of one another, and as the work is particularly valuable, because of the help it gives to the settlement of the dates of many treatises on Hindu law, and the light it throws on the state of Hindu society at the time when it was compiled and for some time previously, the Society resolved to proceed at once to the publication of those parts of the work of which manuscripts were already available, in the hope that by the time these were published, manuscripts of the remaining portions might be discovered. This hope has only partially been fulfilled. When the publication commenced in 1871, the only part of which sufficient manuscript material was at hand, was the second, treating of 'gifts' (or *dānas*) ; and the edition of this portion was entrusted to Pandit Bhanata Chandra Snomani, who added an alphabetical index of the contents as also of the names of the different authors quoted in the text. In the meanwhile sufficient manuscripts of the first part, on 'fasts and penances' (or *vratas*), had been procured, and the edition of this portion was begun by the same editor in 1875, and after his death, continued by the Pandits Yogesvara Bhattacharya and Kāmākhyānātha Taikarātna. Soon after this portion was completed, sufficient manuscripts were found to be ready to proceed to the publication of the fifth or supplementary part (or *pañcasha khanda*), which was done in 1881 by the joint editors of the previous portion. Of the fourth part, on the funeral ceremonies (or *śrāddhā*), there are already three manuscripts available, but of the fifth part, the *Kāla Khanda*, there are still none known that are complete<sup>1</sup>. After the *Chatuṣvaiga Chintāmaṇi*, the next work that was under-

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1872, p 16, for 1874, pp 30, 31, for 1876, p 26, for 1877 p 35, for 1878, p 47, for 1880, p 27, for 1882, p 28



work, however, is much more an astrological one, and as such partakes of a somewhat encyclopædic character, treating, among other things, of geography, architecture, sculpture, medicine, statecraft, etc.<sup>1</sup> In style and matter somewhat resembling it is another work, the *Kāmāndakīya Nīṭisara*, or the political maxims of Chānakya, the minister of Chandra Gupta, compiled by his disciple Kāmāndaki. It was edited, in 1849, by Dr R. Mitra, with extracts from the commentary, entitled *Upādhyāya Nṛapekshā*.<sup>2</sup>

The Hindu science of Medicine is represented in the Society's series by one work. This is the *Sāsānta Samhitā*, which, next to the Charaka, is the oldest and most important of the medical works of the Hindus. Of it Dr Uday Chānd Dutt commenced, in 1883, to publish an annotated translation.

Of works connected with Sanskrit rhetoric, the *Bibliotheca Indica* includes three. The first among them is the *Sāhitya Darpana*, or "Mirror of Composition," by Viśvānātha Kavāṇṇa, which is admittedly the standard of taste among the learned Hindus. It had been printed in 1828 at Calcutta under the authority of the General Committee of Public Instruction, but a revised edition was brought out in 1850 in the Society's collection by Dr E. Roer, and an English translation, together with an introductory analysis, was supplied by Dr J. R. Ballantyne in 1865.<sup>3</sup> The second to be edited was the *Kāvyaḍarsa* of Śrī Dandin, which was published in 1861 by Pandit Piema Chandra Tarkabhāṣa, with a commentary prepared by himself. In the following year, 1862, Dr FitzEdward Hall followed with the publication of the *Daśarūpa* by

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<sup>1</sup> See Introduction to the edition p. 27 and the translation in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* Vol. IV (N.S.), pp. 457, 458. <sup>2</sup> See Weber's *History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature* p. 271, foot-note. <sup>3</sup> See the "Advertisement" prefixed to the edition.

Dhanánjaya, a work which, though of but moderate antiquity, has long been the favourite authority among the Hindus for everything connected with the theatre. The introduction contains a good analysis of the Hindu canons of dramaturgy as enjoined in the *Dasarúpa* and similar works.

The Sanskrit grammatical science of the Hindus is only represented by one work. This is the *Kátantra* or *Kálapa Vyákarana*, commonly ascribed to Saivavarman, of which Professor J. Eggeling published an excellent edition in 1874, with the commentary of Durgásimha and numerous notes and indexes. This grammar is important as the chief representative of the so-called Aindra school of grammarians, which has many points of difference from the standard school of Pánni.<sup>1</sup>

For the publication of the poetical portion of Sanskrit literature such ample provision was made on every side, that it was not thought necessary by the Society to take of it more than a passing notice. Only two works were published, but both standard works. One is the second part of *Śrī Harsha's* great epic the *Naishadha Chaita*, edited by Dr E. Roer, in 1851; the other the *Vásavadatta*, a romance by Subandha, published, in 1855, by Mr. FitzEdward Hall, with the gloss of *Sivaráma Tripáthi*. In this connection may be also mentioned an English translation of the *Kathá Sant Sága*, which Mr. C. H. Tawney published in 1880. This work is the celebrated repository of Indian legends compiled from older sources by Somadeva of Kashmir toward the close of the eleventh century. The stories were illustrated by the translator with copious notes referring to similar legends current in other countries.

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<sup>1</sup> See Dr Burnell's *Aindra School of Sanskrit Grammar*, I 51

Of Sanskrit works connected with Jainism, there is one in the *Bibliotheca Indica*. It is the *Sthavirāvali Chārita*, or *Pañcāshta Parvan*, an appendix of the *Trishashti Sataka Pancha Chārita* by Hema Chandra, of which Professor Hermann Jacobi commenced an edition in 1883. It narrates the history of the first twelve *Staviras*, or patriarchs, from the death of Mahāvīra, down to the last *Śrutakevalin* of the Jain community.

Contrasted with the Society's *Bibliotheca Indica*, the pages of its *Transactions* could only receive philological contributions of small dimensions, and as the energies of the Society were usually devoted to the advancement of the former series with its far more important object of editing texts and translations of whole oriental works—a series<sup>1</sup> the quantity and quality of which indeed is sufficient by itself to establish the philological credit of the Society—it could not be expected that many of the smaller contributions to the *Researches* and the *Journal* should be of great or permanent value. Important contributions in fact, only commenced to appear in the Society's *Transactions* when a new department of philology began to be opened up, and the attention of enquirers in India was turned from the study of the ancient Sanskrit to that of the numerous mediæval and modern vernacular languages and dialects.

Still Sanskrit philology did not remain entirely unrepresented. As early as 1789, there is in the first volume of the *Researches* a short essay on the Sanskrit literature of the Hindus by Govardhan Caul<sup>2</sup>. This is followed successively by three valuable dissertations from the pen of Mr. H. T. Colebrooke. The first, in 1801, treats of the Sanskrit and Prakrit languages, and is devoted mainly to an account of the

<sup>1</sup> *As Res.*, Vol. XII, Appendix, p. 11, Rule 5.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 340.





translations of extracts or of small Sanskrit works ; thus, in 1839, of a few of the opening stanzas of Magha's well-known poem, the *Sisupāla Badha*, by Mr J. C. C. Sutherland,<sup>1</sup> and of the *Mūhurmāstava*, or a hymn to Siva, by the Rev Kṛṣṇa Mohan Banerjee ;<sup>2</sup> in 1845, of the *Vedānta Sāra* an introduction into the Vedānta Philosophy, by Dr E. Roer ;<sup>3</sup> in 1847, of the *Prasnotara Mālā*, or catechetical dialogue of Suka, by Mr J. Christen.<sup>4</sup> In the volume of the latter year, 1847, Dr E. Roer also published a critical review of the leading ideas of the Nyāya and Vaiśeṣika systems of philosophy,<sup>5</sup> to which a few years later, in 1851, he added a few remarks on the Sāṅkhya philosophy, elicited by a lecture on that philosophy, from the pen of Dr J. R. Ballantyne.<sup>6</sup>

At this time the study of the literature of the Vedas had attracted to itself the paramount interest of the scholars in Europe. In order to bring the result of their researches within the reach of Indian scholars, some of their best productions were translated and published in the *Journal*. Among these were three dissertations by Professor R. Roth, of Tübingen, on the hymn collections and the most ancient grammars of the Vedas, inserted in the *Journals* for 1847 and 1848.<sup>7</sup>

A no small portion of the Vedic literature consists of *Upaṇishads* or philosophical treatises. A large number of these were known to exist, through lists prepared by Mr. Colebrooke, Dr. Weber and others ; but in 1851, Mr (now Sir) Walter Elliot was able to add considerably to these lists from information given him by Telugana Pandits. Some account of these additions and a synoptic view of this

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B. Vol. VIII, p. 16    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 355    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, p. 100  
<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. XVI p. 1228    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 167    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XX, p. 397    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*,  
 Vol. XVI, p. 812, Vol. XVII, p. 6





of Sanskrit philology, the Prākṛit language is already, though merely passingly, noticed in 1789. A much fuller notice of it was given by Mr. H. T. Colebrooke in his essay on the Sanskrit and Prākṛit languages, published in 1801 in the seventh volume of the *Researches*.<sup>1</sup> In it he reviewed all the information at that time available on the subject of the various kinds of Prākṛit and the literature in which it is used. It omitted, however, all mention of the most ancient forms of Prākṛit, the Pāli and the Gāthā, which had not yet become known; and overlooking a distinction which was only a discovery of later days, it confused the modern forms of Prākṛit (the Gaudians) with its mediæval forms (the Prākṛits, commonly so called). The same subject, though from a particular point of view and with the same, at that time, natural defects, was continued by Mr H. T. Colebrooke, in 1808, in his essay on Sanskrit and Prākṛit poetry, in which he discussed the laws of Prākṛit versification, and illustrated his remarks by numerous quotations from the vernacular literature.<sup>2</sup>

It was only about twenty years afterwards that the first knowledge of the Pāli language, one of the oldest forms of the Prākṛit, was obtained through the ancient Buddhist literature of Ceylon and Birma, which was composed in that language. Mr. B. Clough, in Colombo, and MM E Burnouf and Chr. Lassen, in Paris, were the first to study it more intimately and make it more generally known in 1824 and 1826.<sup>3</sup> About ten years later, the genuineness of the Pāli, both with regard to its age and its being a natural product, received a striking confirmation through the discovery, by Mr. Prinsep

<sup>1</sup> As Res, Vol VII, p 199    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol X, p 389    <sup>3</sup> See Mr B Clough's Compendious Pāli Grammar in 1824, and Messrs E Burnouf and Chr Lassen's Essay sur le Pāli, in 1826

and his coadjutors in 1837 and 1838, of ancient Prākṛit dialects, more or less closely allied to the Pāli, in which the rock and pillar inscriptions of Asoka and his contemporaries were composed<sup>1</sup> From a cursory comparison of the language of these inscriptions with the Sanskrit of India and the Pāli of Ceylon, Mr J Prinsep arrived at the conclusion, which later researches have proved to be substantially correct, that the language of the inscription is "intermediate between Sanskrit and Pāli," and that it occurs in those inscriptions in two different dialects, one peculiar to the East, the other to the West of India<sup>2</sup>

About the same time, the researches of Mr. B H Hodgson drew attention to a third kind of the ancient vernacular, in which the sacred works of the Northern Buddhists in Nepal were by him found to be composed As this species of Prākṛit exhibited in many ways a most curious resemblance to the well-known Sanskrit, it is not to be wondered that at first it was mistaken to be the latter.<sup>3</sup> It was not till many years later, when in 1853 Babu Rājendrakāla Mitra undertook to prepare an edition of a northern Buddhist work, the *Lalitā Vistara*, for the Society's *Bibliotheca Indica*, that a more just appreciation of the language was formed.<sup>4</sup> It was then found that this Gāthā dialect, as it was called, was but another dialect like the Pāli and the Māgadhī, possessing the closest affinities to Sanskrit<sup>5</sup>

With the exception of these earlier contributions to the study of Prākṛit philology, the latter did not engage

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, pp 469, 686, Vol VII, pp 276, 563, *et passim*    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VII, p 276    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VI p 682    <sup>4</sup> This work is a kind of "Memoirs" of the early life of Sakya Simha, the founder of Buddhism An English translation of it was commenced by Dr Mitra in 1881, also in the *Bibliotheca Indica* See the list of the latter series in Appendix C to the Historical Part of the Centenary Review    <sup>5</sup> J A S B, Vol XXIII, p 604

the Society's attention during many years. Indeed, it was but comparatively lately that this branch of philological research has been more zealously cultivated even in Europe. A reflex of the new interest taken in it in Europe soon showed itself in India, its native country. The earliest was a translation, arranged on European models, of Kachcháyana's celebrated Páli grammar, which Dr F. Mason published, in 1857, in the *Bibliotheca Indica*. In 1875, Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) G. E. Fryer published a Páli study on the Ceylon grammarian Saṅgha Rakkhita Thera and on his treatise on Rhetoric, the *Subodhálankára*, the text of which he edited<sup>1</sup> It was followed in 1877 by another study on the Páli text of the *Vuttodaya*, or 'exposition of metre,' by the same Saṅgha Rakkhita Thera, and to the text were added a translation and notes.<sup>2</sup> In 1878, the writer of the present Review made known a very old Prákrít grammar, called the *Prákríta Lakshana*, the work of a grammarian Chanda (or Chandra), and treating of the *Arsha*, or ancient Prákrít. An edition of it was published by him two years later, in 1880, in the Society's *Bibliotheca Indica*, together with a critical introduction and a comparative analysis of the grammars of the principal Prákrít idioms<sup>3</sup> In 1879, Mr. H. L. St. Baube contributed a short paper on Páli derivations in Burmese<sup>4</sup> In the same year, the writer of this Review brought to notice a new manuscript of the well-known Prákrít grammar of Vararuchi, which was of some interest as giving several new readings, differing from those of the published text in Professor Cowell's edition.<sup>5</sup> In the following year, 1880,

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XLIV, p, 91      <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLVI, p 369      <sup>3</sup> Proceedings for 1878, p 178, for 1880, p 88      See the list of the *Bibliotheca Indica* in Appendix C to the Historical Part of the Centenary Review  
<sup>4</sup> J A S B, Vol XLVIII, p 253      <sup>5</sup> Proceedings for 1879, p 79

the same made known a new and hitherto quite unknown Prākṛit grammar, the Prākṛitānanda, by Raghunātha.<sup>1</sup> Lastly, in 1882, Lieutenant-Colonel G E Fyfe communicated a note on the Pāli grammarian Kachchāyana, in which he endeavoured to show that the true date of that grammarian, which had hitherto been placed before the Christian era, must be somewhere in or about the twelfth century after Christ—a proposition the establishment of which can only be expected from further research.<sup>2</sup>

Out of the ancient and mediæval Prākṛit languages grew up, within the last six or seven centuries, the modern vernaculars of India. Of these, generally, eight are enumerated; namely, beginning in the North-West, the Kashmīrī, Panjābī, Sindhī, Gujarātī, Marāṭhī, Hindī, Bangālī, Uṛiyā. Recent researches, as will be noticed further on, have shown that, in the area which is generally appropriated to Hindī, there exist in reality two distinct languages, the Hindī (properly so called), and the Bihārī. The correct number of modern vernaculars, therefore, is at least nine, which, moreover, possess a large number of dialectic varieties. It was the investigation of these languages and dialects of modern India to which the efforts of the Society were principally and most successfully directed. Curiously enough, the westernmost group of these languages, consisting of the Sindhī, Panjābī and Kashmīrī, two of which, the Panjābī and Kashmīrī, are at present among the least known, was the earliest to attract the Society's attention. Later on, various circumstances combined to concentrate the investigations of the Society on the central and eastern vernaculars, the Hindī, Bihārī, and Bangālī, regarding which our knowledge, in the present day, is most advanced.

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1880, p 100

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* for 1882, pp 116, 125



Sindhi was brought under the notice of the Society, as early as 1837, by Mr. J. Prinsep, in a review, contributed by him to the Journal, of Mr. W. H. Wathen's grammar of that language.<sup>1</sup> A short vocabulary of it, drawn up by Captain J. B. Eastwick, was published a few years later in the Journal for 1843. It contained a promiscuous collection of words, followed by a particular list of names of different artificers and their implements, and a particularly valuable feature in it was that it gave the equivalents of every English word in two different Sindhi dialects, those of Sái and Lái.<sup>2</sup>

Sikh Gianti, entitled the "Book of the Tenth Pontiff" Major (now General) J. Abbott followed in 1854 with a free translation of the Panjábí legend of Rasálú, to which he added copious explanatory notes.<sup>2</sup> Of a similar kind were the contributions of Lieutenant (now Captain) R. S. Temple in 1882, and Rev. C. Swynerton in 1883. The latter published a collection of small folktales from the Upper Panjáb in an English translation. The former gave a number of Hindí folksongs from the same country, the usefulness of which was much increased by the grammatical and lexicographic remarks, with which Captain Temple accompanied the text and translation of his folksongs. It should be noted, however, that much of the language from which all the foregoing translations were made, was not strictly Panjábí, but rather a species of Western Hindí.

The Kashmíí we find first noticed in 1841 in the tenth volume of the *Journal*. Mr. M. P. Edgeworth, finding himself stationed in Lúdiána, in the Panjáb, in the midst of a large colony of Kashmíí weavers, set to work to learn their language. The result he published in the *Journal* in the shape of a rudimentary grammar and short vocabulary.<sup>3</sup> A rather fuller grammar and vocabulary were published three years later, in 1844, by Major R. Leech.<sup>4</sup> Both these treatises labored under a serious disadvantage. They were not merely exceedingly meagre, but in addition they were avowedly founded upon the language of a small community of artisans, long expatriated from their native country, with whose language, moreover, the writers only became acquainted through the intervention of a Musalman. Under these circum-

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XIX, p. 521, Vol. XX, pp. 314, 487.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIII, p. 123.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, p. 1038.    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIII, pp. 397, 553.

stances, the trustworthiness and usefulness of the information was necessarily very doubtful. This led the Hon'ble G Campbell in 1866 to move the Society to request the Panjáb Government to take measures for obtaining an accurate knowledge of the Arian languages spoken in the territories of the Mahárāja of Kashmir. During the discussion of Mr. Campbell's motion, some useful information regarding the affinities and the area of the Kashmírī language was elicited,<sup>1</sup> but beyond this the movement was not followed by any practical results. It is true, some lexicographic information was also given in 1866 by Captain H H Godwin-Austen, in a comparative collection of Kashmírī, Baltí and Kistwái words;<sup>2</sup> and in 1870, by Dr. W. J Elmslie, in a list of Kashmírī words drawn up according to Mr. Justice Campbell's "model vocabulary for the discovery of the radical affinities of languages and for easy comparison."<sup>3</sup> But both contributions, though proceeding from Kashmir itself, were too exceedingly meagre to be helpful in advancing the knowledge of Kashmírī. A complete and reliable grammar and dictionary of that language is still a desideratum, the supply of which must be hoped for from future researches.

Among all the modern vernaculars of North India, Hindí is one of the most important and prominent. Nevertheless, little notice of it, as distinguished from Bahírī, is found in the Society's Transactions. This fact, strange at first sight, is fully explained by the peculiar circumstances of that language. Unlike the other vernaculars of India, which before they were recognized and elevated under European influence, were more or less obs-

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1866, pp 16, 62, 191      = J A S B, Vol XXV, 1

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXIX, p 25



stances, the trust<sup>1</sup> of his poem<sup>1</sup> This led to an ac-  
 information was ne<sup>2</sup>sy between him and Mr Growse re-  
 Hon'ble G. Camp<sup>3</sup> method of editing and translating Chand's  
 request the Pan<sup>4</sup>owed in 1872 and 1873 by rival translations  
 obtaining an ac<sup>5</sup>il stanzas of the first canto, intended to  
 spoken in the ,spective positions<sup>3</sup> In the Journals of the  
 During the di<sup>6</sup>Mr Beames also published a list of the books  
 useful inform<sup>7</sup>ained in Chand's poem,<sup>4</sup> and some valuable  
 the Kashmír<sup>8</sup>tudies in the archaic language of that ancient  
 the moveme<sup>9</sup>, time the plan of publishing in the Bibliotheca  
 It is true, s<sup>10</sup>tion of Chand, which, as mentioned, had already  
 in 1866 by<sup>11</sup>Society's sanction some years previously, was  
 tive collec<sup>12</sup>ken up, and the work of editing it divided between  
 and in 1<sup>13</sup>ies and the writer of this Review ; the former  
 words dr<sup>14</sup>his share the first twenty-two cantos of the epic,  
 "model<sup>15</sup>, remaining forty-seven cantos were entrusted to  
 of le<sup>16</sup>er.<sup>6</sup> The first fasciculus of Mr Beames's portion  
 cont<sup>17</sup>ublished in 1873, after which unfortunately the pres-  
 of official work compelled him to discontinue his  
 we<sup>18</sup>ion The first fasciculus of the second part was  
 th<sup>19</sup>ublished in 1874, and was followed in the succeeding  
 years<sup>7</sup> by three more fasciculi of the text, as well as one  
 fasciculus of the translation

Of a much later date than Chand's epic are the rhap-  
 sodies of Gambhī Rai, the bard of Nūrpur Mr Beames  
 had communicated to the Society a short notice of them  
 in 1872 ;<sup>8</sup> but he afterwards published in the Journal for  
 1875 a portion of their text, together with a translation and

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XXXIX, p 145    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXVIII, pp 161, 171,  
 Vol XXXIX, p 52 See also Proceedings for 1873, p 122    <sup>3</sup> J A S B, Vol XLI,  
 p 42, Vol XLII, p 329    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLI, p 204    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLII, p 167

<sup>6</sup> Proceedings for 1874, p 32    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid* for 1875, p 32 See the list of the Biblio-  
 theca Indica in the Appendix C to the Historical Part of the Centenary Review.

<sup>8</sup> Proceedings for 1872, p 156

explanatory notes These songs are called seventeenth century ; their language is lect Sidor Løwen- but full of Panjābī words and consti East relate the story of Rāja Jagat Singh, lord of F<sup>1</sup> was com- and Pathan in the Kāngrā district. The la<sup>36</sup> It is

Of about the same age is a shorter <sup>Hazārah</sup> a bard Jodhiāj in the Eastern Rājpūtānī d<sup>2</sup> vesterly It is called the Hamīr Rāsā, and relates the s<sup>3</sup> the e<sup>4</sup>ghit, the Chobān lord of Rathambai, at the time w<sup>5</sup>analysis c Muhammad Shāh was emperor of Dehli Aājmalā, m<sup>6</sup>nd translation of this poem by Babu Brijanāt<sup>7</sup>greater i<sup>8</sup>l pādhyāya of Jaipur was published in the Journ<sup>9</sup> in 187

Until quite recently it was generally believ<sup>10</sup>he fact is area of the Hindī language extended so far to t<sup>11</sup>which has to be continuous with that of the Bangālī TL standard this opinion was first prominently pointed out by t<sup>12</sup>respects of this Review in 1872, who showed that that<sup>13</sup>. The extended area was occupied by two entirely different<sup>14</sup>oint of of dialects, each of which classes constituted a dis<sup>15</sup>u of language, the boundary line being, oughly speaking, ost 80th degree of longitude<sup>16</sup> Among the western group of these dialects, one, the Bray Bhāshā, had received a cō<sup>17</sup>n siderable amount of literary cultivation, and thus had gradually risen, in a somewhat modified form, to the position of the standard dialect of the group, under the name of Hindī No corresponding process had taken place among the eastern group of those dialects; whence it had happened that their claim to constitute a separate language and bear a distinct name of their own had failed to be recognized. The want of such a distinctive and collective name, however, began to be strongly felt, as soon as the dialects belonging to

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol. XLIV, p 192    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XLVIII, p 186 See also Proceedings for 1878, p 195    <sup>3</sup> J A S B, Vol. XLI, pp 121, 122

stances, the true object of closer study. The desired information was first applied in 1883 by Mr G. A. Grierson, Hon'ble G. Campbell, language—a term taken from the area request the Paninment of the dialects, the Maithilī, and obtaining an acceptance to general acceptance on the ground spoken in the convenience.

During the time Maithilī, just mentioned, the following useful information to the Bihārī language : the Baiswārī or the Kashmīrī, the Bhojpūrī, and the Māgadhi. Among the movements, Bundelkhandī was noticed as a peculiar dialect. It is true, since 1843, by Major R. Leech, though its true nature in 1866 by the Hindī was not at that time recognized. The first collection gave merely a very meagre outline of its nature and in 1866 a very short vocabulary.<sup>1</sup> Nothing more was done till 1875, when Mr. V. A. Smith published a "model" with translations and notes, of some popular songs of the Hamīrpur district, in Bundelkhand, to which he contributed some more in 1876.<sup>2</sup> In the latter year, Mr. F. S. Brown also published, as a specimen translation, an English version of the prologue to the Rāmāyan of the famous poet Tulsī Das. This vernacular rendering of Vālmiki's celebrated epic is composed in the Baiswārī dialect, a variety of the Bundelkhandī.<sup>3</sup> Of the standard Bihārī dialect, the Maithilī, Mr. G. A. Grierson published in 1880-1882 a very full grammar, chrestomathy and vocabulary.<sup>4</sup> The chrestomathy, among other specimens of Maithilī literature, contained a complete edition of the genuine text of the poems of the well-known Bidyapati. To these specimens Mr. Grierson added, in 1882, an edition of the Haribans, a

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XII, p. 1086  
p. 277    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLV, p. 1

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIV, p. 389, and Vol. XLV,  
<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Extra Numbers for 1880-1882

poem of Manbodhi or, as he is also called The only specimens of the Bhojpúrí dialect *śidoi* Læwenhitherto published, are some folksongs from East pur, which were collected by Mr Hugh F<sup>1</sup> was com- edited by Mr. G A Grierson in 1883<sup>2</sup> The la<sup>3</sup> It is some valuable notes on certain dialectic peculiarities<sup>4</sup> Hazárah may be noticed in the songs<sup>5</sup> uesterly

With regard to the Bangálí language, the e<sup>6</sup>light, notice which occurs in the Journal is the analysis of a historical poem in Bangálí verse, called the Rájmalá, m<sup>7</sup>nd by the Rev James Long in 1850<sup>8</sup> Of far greater i<sup>9</sup>l portance is a contribution by Mr G A Grierson in 187 on the Northern Bangálí dialect of Rangpur The fact is well-known that, beside the Nadiya dialect, which has afforded the basis for the modern literary or standard Bangálí, there are several dialects which in many respects exhibit considerable differences from that standard The importance of the dialects from the philological point of view cannot be overestimated. But with the exception of the Rangpur dialect, their study has been hitherto almost entirely neglected. A brief outline of the grammar of that dialect was given by Mr. G A. Grierson in 1877, together with a few specimens of Rangpurí folksongs,<sup>5</sup> and in 1878 he edited the longer 'Song of Manik Chandra,' with an English translation<sup>6</sup>

Researches into the dialects of the Gaudian languages, with respect to their grammar, vocabulary and local extent, are of particular value from the point of view of comparative philology Comparative studies accordingly commenced to be especially cultivated from the time that attention began to be more prominently directed to the investigation

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol LI, p 129 • <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. LII, p 1    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 20  
*Ibid*, Vol XIX, p 533    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XLVI, 186    • *Ibid*, Vol XLVII, p 135



*Archaic* provincial dialects of North India. There

stances, the , a few notices of earlier attempts at a com-  
information dy of the Gaudians In the Journals for 1837,  
Hon'ble G 1849, there are short comparative vocabularies  
request t<sup>h</sup> agálí and Assamese languages<sup>1</sup> In the Journal  
obtaining of the dative and accusative cases when formed  
spoken a postposition in Bangálí and Hindústání<sup>2</sup> In 1864,  
Dui Rájendralála Mitra contributed a paper on the  
use of the Hindí language and its relation to the Uidú  
thálect. It was the first attempt in the Journal, though  
under the circumstances necessarily an imperfect one, to  
trace the grammar of modern Hindí to its Prákrit and  
Sanskrit sources.<sup>3</sup> A similar attempt with respect to the  
vocabulary of Bangálí was made in 1870 by Babu Pratapa  
Chandra Ghosha.<sup>4</sup> About this time the subject was taken  
up in right earnest by Mr. J Beames, who communicated in  
1870 a paper on the relation of Uiyá to the modern Aryan  
languages of India,<sup>5</sup> and afterwards prepared a compara-  
tive grammar of those languages, the first volume of which  
appeared early in 1872. In the Journal of the same year  
appeared the first three of a series of 'Essays in Aid of a  
Comparative Grammar of the Gaudian Languages,' contri-  
buted by the writer of the present Review<sup>6</sup> A fourth essay  
followed in 1873,<sup>7</sup> and a fifth in 1874<sup>8</sup> After some intro-  
ductory remarks on the adoption of the term 'Gaudian' and  
the distinction between the 'Biháí' and Hindí languages,<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, p 1023, Vol VII, p 56, Vol XVIII, p 183 <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*,  
Vol XXI, p 105 <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXIII, p 489 <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXIX, p 131  
<sup>5</sup> Proceedings for 1870, p 192 <sup>6</sup> J A S B, Vol XLI, pp 120, 124 <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*,  
Vol XLII, p 59 <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLIII, p 22 <sup>9</sup> The term 'Gaudian' was  
originally spelt 'Gaurian,' and its use evoked a small controversy, see Proceed-  
ings for 1872, pp 98, 177 The terms originally used for 'Biháí,' were 'Gaurani'  
and 'Eastern Hindí.'

the essays proceeded to discuss the origin Asider Læwen-  
inflection of nouns from the Prākrit and Sa-  
continuation of the essays was interrupted by then was com-  
from India of then author, who, some years late 66<sup>2</sup> It is  
reviewed the whole subject of the affinities of the Hazārāh  
languages to each other and their derivation twesterly  
Prākrit and Sanskrit in a separate volume treating hight,  
comparative grammar of those languages. In the same  
1880, he also contributed to the Journal a list of Hindī rī and  
with remarks on then derivation and classification<sup>1</sup> Seral  
afterwards Mr G A Grierson commenced a series he  
essays on the declension and conjugation of the Bihārī  
dialects of which the first, containing some introductory  
remarks on the various dialects, and the second, treating  
of declension, were published in 1883.<sup>2</sup> On the latter  
subject some observations were added by the writer of  
this Review<sup>3</sup> Some information of a comparative philo-  
logical kind, it may be mentioned, was also contained in an  
earlier memoir by Mr F S Growse, contributed in 1874,  
on the etymology of local names in Northern India, as  
exemplified in the district of Mathurā<sup>4</sup>

In connection with the Gandhin languages may be  
mentioned the idiom of the Gipsies in Europe, whose  
connection with India as then original home was very early  
suspected Thus, in 1801, Captain David Richardson pub-  
lished a memoir on the Indian 'Nats,' in which he  
pointed out various resemblances between then language  
and that of the Gipsies<sup>5</sup>

The Gandian vernaculars of India belong to the great  
stock of Indo-Aryan languages, the members of which

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XLIX, p 53    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol LII, p 119    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*,  
p 159    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLIII, p 224    <sup>5</sup> As Res, Vol VII, pp 457, 481

stances, the connection there exist on the North-Western information is India a number of languages, or dialects, which Hon'ble G. G. G. of a more or less close affinity to the North request the Hon'ble G. G. G. These are the Káffirí, Brabúí, Ba-obtainin, oashúí, Dardí, Chulás and the Galchali; and of each spoken the Society's Journal contains shorter or longer Durin is. The earliest of the notices refer to the Káffirí, usgin ní and Balúchí, and occur in the seventh volume of Chalce Journal of the year 1838. In that year Captain Alexander Burnes communicated a very short vocabulary of the Káffirí language;<sup>1</sup> and Lieutenant R. Leech, outlines of the S grammar, together with short vocabularies, of the Brabúí (or Brabúky) and Balúchí (or Balochky) languages.<sup>2</sup> An equally meagre list of words in Balúchí and Káffirí was given by Captain (now Major) H. G. Raverty in 1864.<sup>3</sup> In 1881, however, a sketch of the Northern Balúchí language was published by M. Longworth Dames, which contained a very serviceable grammar and vocabulary, together with specimens of that language.<sup>4</sup>

Of the Pashtú or Afghání language, Lieutenant R. Leech published, in 1839, an outline grammar and a short vocabulary.<sup>5</sup> Its exact affiliation as a Semitic or an Aryan language had long been a matter of dispute since Sir William Jones's unfortunate but excusable note as to its Chaldean affinity in the second volume of the Asiatic Researches.<sup>6</sup> Some remarks in reference to this subject were contributed by Lieutenant (now Major) H. G. Raverty in 1854,<sup>7</sup> but it was fully discussed and the Aryan affinity

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol VII, p 332    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pp 538, 608    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXIII, p 272    See also Proceedings for 1866, p 63    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Extra Number for 1880  
<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. VIII, p 1    <sup>6</sup> As Res, Vol II, p 76    <sup>7</sup> J A S B, Vol. XXIII, p 576

of the Pashtú clearly shown by the Rev. Isidor Lœwenthal in 1860 <sup>1</sup>

On the language of Chilás some information was communicated by the Hon'ble G Campbell in 1866 <sup>2</sup> It is spoken by the independent mountaineers on the Hazárah Frontier, thence throughout Chilás, which is the westerly hill-territory of the Mahárája of Kashmir, and in Ghilghit, another Central Asian acquisition of the Mahárája

Closely allied to the Chilás language are the Dardí and Galchah languages The latter language possesses several dialects, of three of which,—the Wakhí, Saikolí and the Shighní,—Mr R B Shaw published outline grammars and specimens in 1876 and 1877 <sup>3</sup> In the following year, 1878, he added a short account of the grammar of the Dardí dialects <sup>4</sup>

Besides the Gaudian and Frontier languages of the Aryan stock, India possesses a large number of aboriginal languages, or dialects, of various classes There are in the south the Drávidian, in the centre the Kolarian, in the north the Tibeto-Burman, in the east the Indo-Chinese languages. A large amount of information on all these languages and dialects is stored up in the Transactions of the Society, gathered together chiefly by the zealous enquiries of Mr. H B Hodgson, Rev N Browne, Mr W. Robinson and others It consists mainly of outline grammars and short comparative vocabularies, representing much valuable raw material, out of which, it may be hoped, a thorough and systematic knowledge of those multifarious languages and their mutual relations may be elaborated in the course of time.

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XXIX, p 323    <sup>2</sup> Proceedings for 1866, pp 42, 62, 191

<sup>3</sup> J A S B, Vol XLV, p 139, Vol XLVI, p 97    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLVII, p 38

Of the principal members of the Drávidian family of languages,—the Tamil, Telugu, Tulu, Malayálam and Kanarese,—which have had much attention bestowed on them from other quarters, no more than a brief notice occurs in the Journal of the Society. It consists of a very small comparative vocabulary, contributed in 1849 by Mr. B. H. Hodgson.<sup>1</sup> Some of the Nílagní dialects,—the Toda, Kora, Badaga, Kurumba, Irula,—were also noticed in that vocabulary, but a special list of words of these hill-dialects, together with some grammatical observations, was communicated by Mr. B. H. Hodgson in 1856.<sup>2</sup> Another hill dialect, the Paliáí, spoken in the Rájmahal Hills, in the vicinity of Bhagalpur, is the earliest of the Drávidian group ever mentioned in the Society's Transactions. A very small list of words of that dialect was communicated, as early as 1798, by Major R. E. Roberts in the Asiatic Researches.<sup>3</sup> A similar list was published much later, in 1848, by Mr. B. H. Hodgson, in a small comparative vocabulary, which also contained words of two other languages of the Drávidian group,—the Gondí and the Oriáon.<sup>4</sup> A very small list of Gondí words had been already communicated in 1844 by Dr. Voysey,<sup>5</sup> and a somewhat larger one, together with a few grammatical notes and specimens, in 1847, by Dr. O. Mangle.<sup>6</sup> A yet fuller grammar and vocabulary, though still too incomplete, was published by the Rev. James Dawson in 1870.<sup>7</sup>

The most prominent of the Kolarian family of aboriginal languages is the Mundáí, the language of the Kols.

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XVIII, p. 250, see also Vol. XIX, p. 461, and Vol. XXI, p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXV, pp. 31, 32, 498.    <sup>3</sup> *As. Res.*, Vol. V, p. 127.    <sup>4</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XVII, Part I, p. 553.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIII, p. 19.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXV, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIX, pp. 103, 172.

on Hos. The first notice of it occurs in the *Journal* for 1840, in which Lieutenant Ticeik published an outline of its grammar as well as a short vocabulary.<sup>1</sup> A very small list of words was also communicated in 1841, by Dr. Voysey;<sup>2</sup> and in 1848, by Mr. B. H. Hodgson, in his comparative vocabulary of aboriginal languages of Central India.<sup>3</sup> A much fuller vocabulary was contributed by Babu Rakhal Das Haldar in 1871.<sup>4</sup> Very closely allied to the Mundári is the Sontháli, of which a small list of words is also contained in Mr. B. H. Hodgson's comparative vocabulary, above mentioned.<sup>5</sup> A more subordinate dialect of the same class is the Juangí or Patnaí, spoken by a savage race, "which inhabits the jungles of the Tithutny Mehals to the south of Singhbhím." A few words of this dialect were noted down by Mr. E. A. Samuels in 1856.<sup>6</sup>

On the southern ranges and at the foot of the Himalayan mountains, a very large number of languages, or rather dialects, are spoken, which are commonly classed together as the Sub-Himalayan, or Tibeto-Burman languages. They have received as yet very little accurate investigation; all that is at present known being more or less meagre comparative lists of words, and here and there some short grammatical observations. They have been provisionally divided into several groups: the Nepalese, the Sikhimí, the Assamese, the Manipurí, the Burmese, and the Trans-Himalayan. The affinity of all these Mongolian languages with those spoken in the Caucasus was discussed by Mr. B. H. Hodgson in a memoir contributed to the *Journal* of 1853.<sup>7</sup>

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J. A. S. B., Vol. IX, pp. 997, 1061.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIII, p. 19.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, Part I, p. 553.    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XI, p. 46.    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, Part I, p. 55.    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXV, p. 702.    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, p. 26.

To the Nepalese group belong the Limbú and Mumi dialects, of which Mr. A. Campbell published, in 1840, small lists of words.<sup>1</sup> Another list of words was communicated by Mr. B. H. Hodgson, in 1847, as part of a comparative vocabulary, of the eastern Sub-Himalayan languages or dialects<sup>2</sup> In the same vocabulary there are also lists of words of the Newár, Gurung, Magar, Sunwar and Kirantí dialects<sup>3</sup> A much fuller vocabulary of the last mentioned dialects of the Kirantís, as well as of those of the Bahing and Váyu or Háyu tribes, was published by Mr. Hodgson in 1857;<sup>4</sup> and a grammar of the Bahing dialect was added in 1858<sup>5</sup> In the Journal for 1857, Mr. Hodgson also published a short comparative vocabulary of a number of other small Nepalese dialects, the Daharí or Dabí, the Paharí or Pahí, the Denwar, Kuswar, Biamu, Pákhyá, Táksya, Tharu, Kusunda and Chepang.<sup>6</sup> Of the last two dialects a very short list of words had been already communicated by him in 1848;<sup>7</sup> and on the language and literature of the Newárá there is some information by him as early as 1828 in the Asiatic Researches<sup>8</sup>

There is only one language ascribed to the Sikkim group. It is the Lepcha, of which a list of words was given by Mr. B. H. Hodgson in 1847 in his above mentioned comparative vocabulary of the Sub-Himalayan languages.<sup>9</sup> A grammar of the language was afterwards published by Colonel Mainwaring<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. IX, pp. 605, 613, see also Vol. XI, p. 4, and Vol. XXIV, p. 202, where there is a note on the Limbú alphabet    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVI, p. 1235    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1235    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVI, pp. 320, 333, 350, 372, 429, 486  
<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVII, p. 393    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVI, pp. 320, 327    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, Part II, pp. 650, 655    <sup>8</sup> As Res., Vol. XVI, p. 409    <sup>9</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XVI, p. 1235    <sup>10</sup> See the List of Publications in Appendix C of the Historical Part of the Centenary Review

To the Assam group belong a large number of languages or dialects, of which the Rev N Brown published in 1837 a small comparative vocabulary. These are the Aka, Aboi, Mishmi, Singpho, Jih and Gao.<sup>1</sup> Twelve years later, in 1849, MM W Robinson and B H Hodgson contributed short grammars and vocabularies of the last three of the dialects just mentioned, as well as of some new ones, *viz*, the Kacháí or Bodo, Mimi, Nága, Miki, Dhimul.<sup>2</sup> Among these the Nága language is one of the most important, and possesses several distinct dialects. A small comparative vocabulary of these dialects was supplied by Mr. B H. Hodgson in 1850.<sup>3</sup> The same was done in 1855 by Lieutenant R Stewart, in a memoir on northern Kacháí; and in 1872 and 1875, by Mr S E Peal and Captain J. Butler in two memoirs on the Nága country. They also added the corresponding words from the Kacháí and Miki dialects.<sup>4</sup> In the year 1851, Mr W Robinson also added to his previous contributions an outline grammar and vocabulary of the Dophla dialect;<sup>5</sup> and in 1855, he did the same for the Mishmi dialects.<sup>6</sup> In 1869, Lieutenant W. J Williamson communicated a very small comparative vocabulary of the Gao and Konch dialects.<sup>7</sup>

In the Manipurí group the Manipurí language itself is the most important. A list of words belonging to it was communicated as early as 1837 by the Rev N. Brown in his comparative vocabulary, mentioned in the remarks on the Nepalese group.<sup>8</sup> A somewhat fuller list, given in 1855, in Lieutenant R Stewart's comparative vocabulary

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol. VI, pp 1023, 1032    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XVIII, pp 207, 456, pp 318, 342, 969, pp 215, 456, pp 224, 969, pp 323, 969, pp 330, 342, p 456  
<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XIX, pp 309, 311    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXIV, pp 582, 656, and Vol. XLI, p 29, Vol. XLII, Appendix, Vol. XLIV, pp 216, 307, 333    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XX, p 126    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXIV, p 307    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXXVIII, p 14  
<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. VI, pp 1023, 1033





It may be added that, in 1845, Thomas Latter brought out a grammar of the language of Burmah, as a separate work, under the auspices of the Society.<sup>1</sup>

The leading language among the Trans-Himalayan group is the Tibetan. The first notice of it occurs in 1825, in the fifteenth volume of the *Researches*, which contains a small list of Tibetan (called there 'Tartar or Bhotia') words collected in 1819 by Captain J. D. Herbert.<sup>2</sup> The following volume of 1828 contains a memoir by Mr B. H. Hodgson on the language and literature of Bhot or Tibet.<sup>3</sup> One of the earliest and best students, however, of the language and literature of Tibet, was the well-known Hungarian traveller, Alexander Csoma Kőrösi. His grammar and dictionary, published by the Society at the expense of the Indian Government in 1834,<sup>4</sup> were the first of their kind, and are deservedly held in high esteem. From his pen there also appeared at various times numerous analyses of Tibetan works; thus, in the *Journal* for 1832,<sup>5</sup> an abstract of the contents of the *Dulva*, or first portion of the *Kahgyur*; in that for 1834 some observations on Tibetan symbolical names used as numerals;<sup>6</sup> in that for 1835, an analysis of a medical work;<sup>7</sup> in the *Researches* for 1836, an analysis of the whole of the *Kahgyur*, including both the first and second portions of that voluminous work;<sup>8</sup> also notices of the life of Shakya, extracted from Tibetan authorities,<sup>9</sup> and an abstract of the contents of the *Tangyur*;<sup>10</sup> in the *Journal* for 1838, notices of the different systems of Buddhism, extracted

<sup>1</sup> See the *List of Publications* in Appendix C of the *Historical Part of the Centenary Review*.    <sup>2</sup> *As Res.*, Vol. XV, p. 417.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVI p. 409.  
<sup>4</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. III, p. 653.    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. I, pp. 1, 269-375, Vol. II p. 365, Vol. III p. 57, see also Vol. II p. 367.    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 6.    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. IV p. 1.  
<sup>8</sup> *As Res.*, Vol. XX pp. 41-393.    <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 285.    <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* p. 553.

from the Tibetan authorities,<sup>1</sup> and an enumeration of historical and grammatical works to be met with in Tibet.<sup>2</sup> So far the Tibetan language was treated by itself, but in 1849, Mr. W. Robinson published some remarks on those points of its grammar "on which information appeared to be requisite to aid in instituting a comparison between this language and the dialects spoken by the adjoining tribes." A very small list of words intended to subserve a similar purpose had been already communicated by Mr S. W. Williams in 1838.<sup>4</sup> In 1865, the Rev. H. A. Jaeschke contributed a note on the pronunciation of the Tibetan language.<sup>5</sup> This language possesses a not inconsiderable number of dialects, two of which, the Changlo and the Balti, have been noticed in the Journal. Of the former, Mr. W. Robinson supplied an outline grammar in 1849;<sup>6</sup> of the latter, Captain H. H. Godwin-Austen contributed a small vocabulary in 1866.<sup>7</sup>

Another language belonging to the Trans-Himalayan group is the Kunawarí, spoken in the territory of the Rája of Bussahir, in the Panjáb. It was noticed as early as 1825 in the fifteenth volume of the *Researches* by Captain J. D. Herbert, who, in 1819, collected a comparative list of Kunawarí and Tibetan words.<sup>8</sup> A much fuller vocabulary, comparing Tibetan with two distinct dialects of the Kunawarí,—*viz.*, the Milchan and the Tibarskad,—was published in 1842.<sup>9</sup>

Seven other languages classed in the same group—the Thochu, Sokpá, Gyámi, Gyáirung, Hoipa, Tákpá, and Manyak,—are only known from a small comparative vocabulary published by Mr B. H. Hodgson in 1853.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. VII p. 142    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 147    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVIII p. 194    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII p. 703    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 91    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVIII, p. 202    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXV p. 233    <sup>8</sup> *As Res.*, Vol. XI p. 417  
<sup>9</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XI p. 479    <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, pp. 121, 142

On and beyond the eastern frontiers of India there exist a large number of languages or dialects which exhibit a distinct relationship to the language of China, and hence are commonly called Indo-Chinese. They may be divided provisionally into three families,—the Tay, the Mon-Anam, and the Khasi. The affinities of these with the Tibeto-Burman were discussed by Mr B H Hodgson in a memoir published in 1853,<sup>1</sup> and again by Mr R. Cust, in a pamphlet, originally inserted in the Transactions of the Philological Society, but afterwards, in 1877, reprinted in the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.<sup>2</sup>

To the first named family belong the following languages—the Siamese, the Khamti, the Lao, the Shan, and the Ahom. Notices of them occur very early, the first in 1798, in the fifth volume of the Researches, in a comparative vocabulary prepared by Dr. F Buchanan,<sup>3</sup> the second, in the tenth volume of 1808, in a memoir on the language and literature of the Indo-Chinese nations, by Dr. J Leyden.<sup>4</sup> In 1836, Captain James Low published a memoir on Siamese literature,<sup>5</sup> and in 1837 the Rev N Brown, a small comparative list of Siamese and Khamti words.<sup>6</sup> The latter also contributed in the same year some account of the ancient Ahom language and its peculiar characters.<sup>7</sup> In 1849, Mr. W Robinson published an outline grammar and a short vocabulary of the Khamti language,<sup>8</sup> and in the following year, 1850, Mr B H Hodgson, a comparative vocabulary of the Siamese, Khamti, Laos and Ahom languages.<sup>9</sup>

To the Mon-Anam family belong the Anamese, the

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XXII, p 1    <sup>2</sup> Proceedings for 1877, p 205    <sup>3</sup> As Res, Vol V, p 227    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol X, pp 240, 257    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XX, p 338  
<sup>6</sup> J A S B, Vol VI, p 1031    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 17    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XVIII, pp 311, 342  
<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XIX, p 311

Mon and the Khomen, some account of all of which was published in 1808 by Dr. J. Leyden in the tenth volume of the *Researches*.<sup>1</sup> A very small list of Anamese words was communicated by the Rev. N. Brown in 1837,<sup>2</sup> and of Mon words, by the Hon'ble G. Campbell in 1867.<sup>3</sup>

Of the Khasi language there is a very small list of words in the *Journal* for 1841, communicated by Mr. B. H. Hodgson.<sup>4</sup> In the following year, 1849, Mr. W. Robinson added an outline grammar and somewhat larger vocabulary, comparing Khasi words with those of the Tibeto-Birman languages.<sup>5</sup>

On the islands of the Indian Ocean there exist a number of languages, which belong to the Malayan stock. Many of these languages early attracted the notice of the Society, which, however, was afterwards almost entirely withdrawn, as was natural, in favour of the many subjects of interest lying nearer home. A small list of words of the Malayan language spoken in the Nicobar Isles was communicated, as early as 1792, in the third volume of the *Researches*, by Mr. Nicolas Fontana, in connection with a brief account of that group of islands.<sup>6</sup> A somewhat larger vocabulary was published eighty years later by Mr. E. H. Man in the *Journal* for 1872.<sup>7</sup> Another small list of words of the Malayan language spoken by the inhabitants of the Pogy (Pagai) or Nassau Islands lying off Sumatra, was communicated as early as 1799, in the sixth volume of the *Researches*, by Mr. John Crisp.<sup>8</sup> A little later, in 1808, Dr. J. Leyden gave some account of the Jawi, the Javanese, the Bugi, the Bima, the Batta, and the Gala or Tagala, of which the

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<sup>1</sup> *As Res*, Vol X, pp 239, 257, 261      <sup>2</sup> *J A S B*, Vol VI, p 1031      <sup>3</sup> *Proceedings* for 1867, p 51  
<sup>4</sup> *J A S B*, Vol. XVII, Part I, p 547      <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XVIII, pp 336, 342      <sup>6</sup> *As. Res*, Vol. III, p. 157      <sup>7</sup> *J. A S. B*, Vol XLI, p 1      <sup>8</sup> *As Res*, Vol. VI, pp 77, 90

first mentioned is the name of the written Malayan language, while the others are the names of the Malayan language as spoken in the islands of Java, Celebes, Sumbáwa, Sumatra, and the Philippines, respectively.<sup>1</sup> Some further information on these languages was communicated by Mr. Thomas Raffles, in 1816.<sup>2</sup> A specimen of the ancient Malayan language, called the Kawi, was communicated by Mr. John Crawford in 1820, in connection with an account of the island of Bali.<sup>3</sup> A short notice of the alphabets of the Philippine islands, with an illustrative plate, was published in 1815 by Mr. H. Piddington, who extracted it from a Spanish work of Don Simbaldo de Mas.<sup>4</sup>

The Muhammadan conquest introduced the Persian and Arabic languages into India, and then knowledge and cultivation is still widely diffused among that portion of the population of India which professes the Muhammadan faith. It was natural, therefore, that, from the beginning the Asiatic Society extended its researches to the language and literature of Arabia and Persia. But, as in the case of the Sanskrit, the energies of the Society were principally directed to the publication of texts and translations of rare and valuable Arabic and Persian works in the *Bibliotheca Indica*.

All the earlier publications were Arabic works, except one, Nizámi's celebrated *Sikandarnámah*, of which however only about one half was edited in 1852 by Dr. Sprenger and Aghá Muhammad Sháhshterí jointly.<sup>5</sup> The remaining portion was not published until 1869, when it was edited by Maulvi Aghá Ahmad 'Alí.<sup>6</sup> The same Maulvi also wrote an elaborate introduction to the *Sikandarnámah*, which was printed in 1874 as a separate work under the

<sup>1</sup> *As Res*, Vol. X, pp. 163, 189, 192, 198, 202, 207.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XII, p. 102.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XIII, p. 162.

<sup>4</sup> *J A S B*, Vol. XIV, p. 603.

<sup>5</sup> See the list of the

*Bibliotheca Indica* in Appendix C to the Historical Part of the Centenary Review, for this and the other works mentioned hereafter.

<sup>6</sup> *Proceedings* for 1870, p. 30.



is a voluminous work, of which manuscripts are only with great difficulty procurable. When the work, in 1853, was commenced, no complete manuscripts appear to have existed, and in 1856 it was dropped in the middle of the second volume for want of them. In 1864 it was determined to complete the dictionary as far as possible, and the fourth volume was published by Maulvi 'Abdul Hai. In 1873, unexpectedly three manuscripts of the second and third volumes turned up in the possession of Maulvi Kabiruddîn Ahmad. These are now being published by Maulvi 'Abdul Hai, and there is every hope of completing this important work.<sup>1</sup> These two works were published under Dr. A. Sprenger's superintendence. The third, the *Fihrist-ut-Tûsi*, a descriptive list of Shi'ah works, was published by Dr. Sprenger himself, who also edited one of the Appendixes to the second named work, called the *Risâlah Shamsíyah* and treating of the Logic of the Arabians. Two years later, in 1855, Mr. Alfred von Kiemer prepared an edition of Al Wáqidî's *Kitâb-ul-Magházî*, which narrates the history of Muhammad's campaigns. It was made from a single manuscript discovered by the editor in Damascus in 1851, and, as unfortunately the manuscript was a fragment, the edition could not be completed. Two complete manuscripts, however, have been procured not very long ago, and it may now be hoped that a new and complete edition of this important work will soon be published in Germany.<sup>2</sup>

In 1856 a change took place in the selection of works for publication in the *Bibliotheca Indica*. An objection having been raised by the Court of Directors to the selection being bestowed mainly on works in Arabic, it was resolved by the Society to devote the funds at its disposal

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1874, pp. 32, 33.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* for 1881, p. 29.



to the institution of a Persian series which should contain chiefly works on the history of India,<sup>1</sup> giving the preference, when possible, to writers contemporary with the events which their histories chronicle.<sup>2</sup> The first work selected on this new plan was the *Tarikh-i-Firuz-Shahi* by Ziauddin Barni, who brings the history of the Muhammadan sovereigns of India down to the sixth year of the reign of Firuz Shah, the nephew of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq Shah. The edition of his work was commenced in 1860 by Captain W. N. Lees.<sup>3</sup> The next work of the series was Abul Fazl Baihaqi's history of Ma'asud, the son of Mahmud of Ghazni, edited in 1861 by Mr. W. H. Moirley. It is commonly styled the *Tarikh-i-Baihaqi*, but it is simply a portion of a very much larger work in several volumes, entitled the *Tarikh-i-ai-i-Subuktagin*, which relates the history of the descendants of Subuktagin, the father of Mahmud the Great.<sup>4</sup> In 1863 followed the *Tabaqat-i-Nasni* by Minhajuddin Al Jurjani, edited by Captain W. Nassau Lees, in conjunction with Maulvis Khadim Husam and 'Abdul Hai. This work, however, is rather a book of dynasties than a history of any particular dynasty or number of reigns, with the exception of the author's contemporary, the emperor Nasiruddin Mahmud, of whose reign he gives a much fuller account. In his time Muhammadan India was divided into four kingdoms, those of Hindustan, Bengal, the Panjab and Smth; and the peculiar and important feature of the *Tabaqat-i-Nasni* is, that it gives a biographical sketch of the contemporary

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXV, pp. 427, 455. See Journal R. A. S., Vol. III (N. S.), pp. 419, 420. <sup>2</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIII, p. 165. See Journal R. A. S., Vol. III (N. S.), p. 420. <sup>3</sup> Proceedings for 1861, pp. 54, 55, for 1863, p. 1. See Journal R. A. S., Vol. III (N. S.), pp. 121, 122. <sup>4</sup> See Journal R. A. S., Vol. III (N. S.), p. 121, 122.

rulers of all these kingdoms, as also of the countries beyond the Indus<sup>1</sup> An English translation of this important history, beginning with the seventh section of the original, was undertaken in 1873 by Major H G Raverty, who added numerous and valuable notes elucidatory of the text<sup>2</sup> The fourth history of the Persian series is the *Muntakhab-ut-Tawáíkh* of 'Abdul Qádir, the Badáoní, which was edited in 1864 by Captain W Nassan Lees in conjunction with Maulvis Kabíruddín Ahmad and Munshi Ahmad 'Alí, and which, as a history, is second to none in the whole range of historical works by Muhammadan authors. Though it professes to be simply an abridgment of Nizámuddín Ahmad's *Tabaqát-i-Akbar Sháhí*, its great value lies in its giving a view of the character of the great emperor Akbar from an opposition point, a somewhat rare qualification in a contemporary Muhammadan historian<sup>3</sup> The next history in the series was the *Iqbál-námah-i-Jahángír* by Mu'tamad Khán, the confidential secretary of the emperor Jahángír, by whose command he wrote that emperor's memoirs No writer of the period was more competent or more favourably circumstanced for writing a history of the reign of Jahángír<sup>4</sup> It was edited in 1865 by Maulvis 'Abdul Haqq and Ahmad 'Alí

In the following year, 1866, the edition of two histories was commenced. These were Muhammad Qásim's *Alam-gínámah*, a court chronicle of emperor Aurangzib's reign from its thirty-second year, edited by Maulvis Khádim Husain and 'Abdul Hai; and the *Bádsháh-námah* of

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<sup>1</sup> See *Journal R A S*, Vol III (N S), pp 138, 139    <sup>2</sup> Proceedings for 1873, pp 34, 38    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid* for 1870, p 30 See also *Journal R A S*, Vol III (N S) pp 451, 452, 455    <sup>4</sup> Proceedings for 1865, p 114 See also *Journal R A S*, Vol III (N S), p 459

'Abdul Hamíd Lahaurí, one of the principal authorities in the reign of the emperor Sháhjahán, edited by Maulvis Kabíruddín Ahmad and 'Abdur Rabím.<sup>1</sup> In 1867 followed the *Ain-i-Akbarí*, or Institutes of Akbar, by the celebrated Abú'l Fazl, which some consider simply the third volume of the same author's *Akbarnámah*, but which is a large work in three volumes, complete in itself.<sup>2</sup> It was edited by Mr H. Blochmann, who added an introductory English Biography of Abú'l Fazl. He also undertook, in the following year, 1868, an English translation accompanied with very valuable notes. Unfortunately, owing to the lamented death of the author, no more than one volume, about one-half of the whole, has been published. In the same year, 1868, the edition of another history of the reign of the emperor Alamgír was commenced, the *Muntakhab-i-Lubáb*, commonly called, from its author, the *Táíikh-i-Kháfi Khán*. It is the most comprehensive and most important of the histories of that period, being written by a person of singular capabilities for his task, who, moreover, was a contemporary with Aurangzib for the greater portion of his reign.<sup>3</sup> It was edited by Maulvis Kabíruddín Ahmad and Ghulám Qádu. Two years later, in 1870, was added a third history of the same reign, the *Maásn-i-Alamgírí* by Muhammad Saqí Musta'id Khán, edited by Maulvi Aghá Ahmad 'Alí. It is a small work, but its author had good opportunities of consulting the records of Government and of obtaining information regarding the events of Aurangzib's reign.<sup>4</sup> The last of the Persian historical series, as yet published, was commenced in 1873. It is the celebrated *Akbar-*

<sup>1</sup> See Journal R. A. S., Vol. III (N. S.) pp. 462, 464. <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 471.

<sup>3</sup> Proceedings for 1874 p. 33. See also Journal R. A. S., Vol. III (N. S.), pp. 464, 465, 466.

námah of Abú'l Fazl, which is pronounced by all competent judges to be an admirable history of the great emperor Akbar's reign, but from the most favourable point of view,—a memoir, in short, wanted to reflect only his virtues<sup>1</sup> It was edited, at first, by Maulvi Aghá Ahmad 'Alí, after whose death it is being continued by Maulvi 'Abdur Rahím<sup>2</sup>

Besides these historical works only two other works in Persian have been published One is the *Wis o Ramín*, a romance of ancient Persia translated from the Pehlavi into Persian verse by Fakhrúddín, the Junjání It was edited, in 1864, by Captain W N Lees and Munshi Ahmad 'Alí The other is the *Farhang-i-Rashídí*, an edition of which was commenced by Maulvi Zulfikár 'Alí in 1870 and completed by Maulvi Azíz ur Rahman in 1875 This work is a dictionary of the Persian language, which was compiled in 1061 A H by Sayyid 'Abdur Rashíd of Tattá in Sindh, one of the best grammarians and lexicographers that India has produced It is based on a critical examination of the numerous preceding dictionaries, and has itself been the basis of all later writers on Persian lexicography. The editors have added valuable notes from *Sunúí*, *Jaháנגuíní* and the *Snaj*<sup>4</sup>

Of Arabic works there are only two among the later editions included in the *Bibliotheca Indica* These are the *Nokhbat-ul-Fikr*, with the commentary called *Nozhat-un-Nazr*, by Shahábuddín Ahmad Ibn Hajar al Asqalání, the author of the celebrated *Isábah*, previously mentioned; and an English translation of Jaláluddín As-Suyutí's *Táúikh-ul-Khulfa* or "History of the Caliphs" The former was

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings for 1873, p 33 See also *Journal R A S*, Vol III (N S), pp 450 451 <sup>2</sup> Proceedings for 1874, p 34 <sup>3</sup> *Ibid* <sup>4</sup> *Ibid* for 1875, p 32, and for 1876, pp 21 25

edited in 1862 by Captain W. N. Lees, in conjunction with the Maulvis 'Abdul Haqq and Gholám Qádir; the latter by Major H. S. Jarrett, who introduced his translation with a short memoir of the author.

Besides these larger publications, a number of smaller contributions were published from time to time in the *Transactions of the Society*. As early as 1790, in the second volume of the *Researches*, there is an essay on the Arabic elements received into the Persian language.<sup>1</sup> This was followed in 1805 by another essay by Mr. Francis Balfour, in which he gave extracts from the *Tahzib-ul-Mantiq*, or 'Essence of Logic,' as a small supplement to Arabic and Persian grammar, and with a view to elucidate certain points connected with Oriental literature.<sup>2</sup> In the *Journal* for 1834 was commenced, and continued in the following years, a translation, prepared by Baron Joseph von Hammer, of an Arabic work, the *Mohit*, on navigation in the Indian seas. The author of the original work was Sídí al Chelebi (Sídí 'Alí Capudán), Captain of the fleet of the Turkish Sultan Suleiman, who finished his book at Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarát, in the year 1554.<sup>3</sup> In the volume for 1843, Dr. A. Sprenger published a translation of another Arabic work, *Kashf-us-salsalah 'an wasf-uz-zalzalah*, on earthquakes by Jaláluddín As-Sayútí.<sup>4</sup> The same contributed, in 1848, notices of some copies of the Arabic scientific work, entitled *Rasáyil Ikhwán-us-safá*, which, by the novelty of its ideas, the peculiarity of its style, and even of its language, had created considerable sensation.<sup>5</sup> In 1850, Sir Henry Elliot com-

<sup>1</sup> As Res, Vol II, p 208    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol VIII, p 89    <sup>3</sup> J A S B, Vol III, p 545, Vol V, p 441, Vol VI, p 805, Vol. VII, p 767    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XII, p 741    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XVII, Part I, p 501

municated, from Dr Sprenger, a notice of a copy of the fourth volume of the original Arabic text of the history of Tabari which gives the life of Muhammad, and of which no other copy was at that time known to exist.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Sprenger himself contributed in 1851 some observations on the physiology of the Arabic language,<sup>2</sup> and on the initial letters of the nineteenth Sûrah of the Qorân.<sup>3</sup> In the same year, Babu Nara Simha Datta published a translation of a Persian dialogue between Aristotle and Buzurjumihr on morals, called the Zafarnámah.<sup>4</sup> In 1852, Dr. Sprenger continued his contributions with a paper on foreign words occurring in the Qorân.<sup>5</sup> In the volumes for 1853 and 1854 were published several lists of Arabic and Persian works belonging to the libraries at Leyden, Aleppo and in the possession of Sir Henry Elliot.<sup>6</sup> In 1856, Dr. A. Sprenger again contributed notices on Mr. Alfred von Kremer's edition of Wáqidî's Campaigns,<sup>7</sup> and on the Dawá-ul-Qalîb of Mohá-sabî, the earliest work on Súfism yet discovered, and on an Arabic translation of a work ascribed to Enoch,<sup>8</sup> also an essay on the origin and progress of writing down historical facts among the Mussalmans.<sup>9</sup> In 1860, Professor E. B. Cowell communicated a paper on a few mediæval apologies<sup>10</sup> and an analysis of the Qíráu-us-Sa'dam, a Persian poem by Mîr Khusrâu, describing the contemporary contest between the emperor Kaikobád and his father.<sup>11</sup> In 1863, Dr. A. Sprenger contributed some remarks on Barbier de Meynard's edition of Ibn Khordádbek and on the land-tax of the empire of the Khalîfs.<sup>12</sup> In 1868, Mr. H. Blochmann published some

<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol XIX, p 108. See also Vol XX, p 195, for a short notice of a manuscript of the first volume in the Society's library. <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XX, p 115. <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 280. <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 426. <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXI, p 109. <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXII, p 535, Vol. XXIII, pp 44, 225. <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXV, pp 53, 199. <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p 133. <sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, pp 303, 375. <sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. XXIX, p 10. <sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, p 225. <sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXV, p 124.

contributions to Persian lexicography, in which he described a large number of Persian dictionaries compiled by natives of India.<sup>1</sup> In the following year, 1869, he added a memoir on the historian 'Abdul Qádir, called the Badáoní, and his works.<sup>2</sup> In the same year was also published the commencement of a translation from the *Tárikh i-Fáúz Sháhí*, prepared by Major A. R. Fuller, which was continued in the two following years, 1870 and 1871, the last portion being by Mr. P. Whalley.<sup>3</sup> In 1874, Mr. J. O'Kinealy published a translation of an Arabic pamphlet on the history and doctrines of the Wahhábís, written by 'Abdullah, grandson of 'Abdul Wahháb, the founder of Wahhabism,<sup>4</sup> Mr. E. C. Ross, a translation of the annals of 'Oman from early times to the year 1728 A. D.;<sup>5</sup> and Mr. G. H. Damant, the Persian text of the *Risálat-ush-Shuhadá*, or "Book of Martyrs," containing an account of Ismá'il Ghází of Kántá Duár, in the Rangpur district.<sup>6</sup> In 1876, Mr. P. Whalley contributed some translations from the *Diwan* of Zíb-un-nissá Begam, poetically styled Makhfí, daughter of the emperor Aurangzib.<sup>7</sup> In 1877, Mr. C. J. Lyall published a translation of the fourth of the seven *Mo'allaqát* or "Suspended Poems," that of Lebíd, to which he added a notice of the life of that poet as given in the *Kitáb-ul-Aghání*.<sup>8</sup> In the following year he added a translation, together with the text, of the *Mo'allaqah* of Zuhayr.<sup>9</sup> In the volume of the previous year, 1871, he had also commenced to publish translations from the *Hamáseh* and the *Aghání*, which he continued in the volume for 1881.<sup>10</sup> There are also in the volume for 1877 some metrical trans-

<sup>1</sup> J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXVII, p. 1    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXVIII, p. 105    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 181, Vol. XXXIX, p. 1, Vol. XL, p. 185    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLIII, p. 68    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 111    <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 222    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLV, p. 308    <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVI, p. 61  
<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVII, p. 1    <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLVI, pp. 168, 437, Vol. L, p. 107

lations from the quatrains of 'Umai Khayjám, contributed by Mr P Whalley <sup>1</sup>

In connection with the Arabic language may be mentioned a report, by Lieutenant J R Wellsted, on the island of Socotra. In it he gives a small list of words of the language of the islanders, who appear to be immigrants from Arabia <sup>2</sup>

The Asiatic Society, true to its name, did not limit its philological researches to the languages of India, or of countries nearly connected with India. Those of countries, more or less distant in geographical position or historical relation, like China, Armenia, Turkistan, also received an occasional notice. Thus, in the second volume of the *Researches* of the year 1790, Sir W. Jones published some account of the second classical book of the Chinese, the *Shu-king*, containing three hundred odes or short poems in praise of ancient sovereigns and legislators, or descriptive of ancient manners. Of one of these odes he added the original text, together with a literal and a free translation.<sup>3</sup> Much later in 1843, Mr. H. Piddington republished in the *Journal* the introduction to a paper on the study of the Chinese language written by Mr. Stanislas Julien <sup>4</sup>

The first contribution on the language of Turkistan was made in 1835. In the *Journal* of that year Mr H. Wathen published a memoir on Chinese Tartary and Khoten, to which he appended a small list of words of the Turkí dialect spoken at Yarkand <sup>5</sup> Nothing more was done till 1877, when Mr R B Shaw published a grammar of the language of Eastern Turkistan.<sup>6</sup> Three years later,

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<sup>1</sup> J A S B, Vol. XLVI, p 168    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IV, pp 138, 165    <sup>3</sup> *As Res*, Vol II, p 195    <sup>4</sup> J A S B, Vol. XII, p 816.    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Vol IV, pp 653, 663  
<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XLVI, p 242



in 1880, he added a fairly complete vocabulary of the same language, to which was appended a list of names of birds and plants prepared by Dr. J. Scully.<sup>1</sup>

On the literature of Armenia, there is one contribution in the Transactions of the Society. It occurs in the Journal for 1868, and is an account, by Mr. Johannes Avdall, of twenty-five authors of Armenian grammars from the earliest stages of Armenian literature up to that year.<sup>2</sup>

Besides the languages and literature of India, other matters more generally connected with the subject of philology found an occasional notice in the pages of the Journal. The volume for 1859 contains the well-known paper on the introduction of writing into India, by Professor Max Muller, which was afterwards printed in his *History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature*.<sup>3</sup> Some remarks on the ancient art of writing and the relation of the Indian to the Semitic alphabets by Mr. H. Blochmann and Babu Rájendralála Mitra were published in the Proceedings of 1865.<sup>4</sup> In the following two years the discussion of that subject, with respect to the origin and course of development of the Aryan alphabets, was continued by Mr. E Thomas, the Hon'ble G. Campbell, Babu Rájendralála Mitra, and Rev. K. M. Banerjea.<sup>5</sup> Another subject closely connected with the ancient Indian alphabet is that of the ancient Indian numerals. A memoir on this subject was contributed in 1855 by Mr. E Thomas, in which he revised and much extended the original discovery of those numerals made, as already alluded to in a former place,<sup>6</sup> by Mr. J. Prinsep as early as 1838.<sup>7</sup> Some years later,

<sup>1</sup> J A S. B., Extra Number for 1880.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXXVII, p 134.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Vol XXVIII, p 137    <sup>4</sup> Proceedings for 1865, pp 171, 174    <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*.  
for 1866, p 138, for 1867, pp 33-51    <sup>6</sup> See p 35.    <sup>7</sup> J A. S. B., Vol XXIV,  
p 551, see also Vol VII, p 348.

in 1863, another paper on the same subject was published by Dr. Bhau Daji of Bombay, whose successful decipherment of the numerical symbols occurring in the Násik cave inscriptions enabled him to greatly improve and consolidate our knowledge of the ancient Indian method of expressing numbers in writing<sup>1</sup>

The system of transliteration elaborated by Sir W. Jones has already been mentioned. This was a subject which would necessarily come to the front, from time to time, the more the study of oriental languages and literature progressed. Thus we find in the *Journal* for 1864 a paper on the application of the characters of the Roman alphabet to oriental languages contributed by Captain W. Nassau Lees,<sup>2</sup> and another paper, in 1857, on the transliteration of Indian alphabets in the Roman characters, by Mr F. S. Growse.<sup>3</sup> Somewhat analogous to the subject of transcribing oriental characters into those of Europe, is the question of translating European technical terms into oriental languages. Some discussions on this subject, initiated by the Hon'ble G. Campbell, took place in the Society in 1866, the substance of which is recorded in the *Proceedings* of that year.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. XXXII, p. 161  
Vol. XXXVI, p. 136

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIII p. 345

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Proceedings* for 1866, pp. 129, 131, 141, 159,

## LIST OF ERRATTA AND ADDENDA

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- Page 35, line 21, *read* "1835" *for* "1834 "
- " 35, " 23, " "three" *for* "two "
- " 35, " 24, " "1838" *for* "1836 "
- " 69, " 12, " "to our era" *for* "of our era "
- " 79, " 27, " "form" *for* "forms "
- " 113, " 10, " "era" *for* "era era "
- " 121, " 26, " "Śrīkarnna" *for* "Śrī Karlla "
- " 122, " 29, " "Mahāla" *for* "Mahāāla "
- " 122, " 30, " "Gaharwāras" *for* "Gaharwālas "
- " 130, " 25, 26, " "npon" *for* "from "

On page 50, line 19, with regard to the name *lutila* it may be added that a photo-zincographed copy of the Bareilly inscription is published in Vol I of the Archaeological Survey Reports of General Cunningham. The word *lutila* occurs in the last line. It is clearly not a mislection for *lumuda* as erroneously stated in J A S B, Vol XXXIII, p 226

On page 130, add to footnote 2 "General Cunningham makes A D 1107 to be the initial year of the Sena era, see his Archaeological Survey Reports Vol XV p 160 "

## Appendixes

### To the Chapter on History

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#### NO. I.

With regard to the events that led to the change of dynasty in Kanauj at the time of the accession of the (so-called) Rathors, I would venture to make a suggestion for further consideration. The Basáhi land-grant, published in the Journal A S B, Vol XLII, p 321, seems to me to throw light on this point. I do not think the significance of the historical notices contained in the opening verses of that grant has been quite correctly understood.

The *Vijayí* or 'victorious king' of the second verse is Śrī Chandra Deva himself, whose descent is described in that verse. The following verse (No 3) relates the circumstances under which he obtained the throne of Kanauj. In this verse (No 3) it is stated that after the death of a king Śrī Bhoja, there were troublous times under a king Śrī Karnna,\* to which Śrī Chandra Deva put an end by possessing himself of the country. The king Bhoja, I take to be Bhoja Deva II of the earlier Kanauj dynasty, who reigned about A D 925-950, for his father Mahendra Pála was still reigning in A D 921 (see Genl Cunningham's Archæological Reports, Vol IX, p 85). Bhoja Deva II's son, Vinayaka Pála Deva, may, therefore, be put down to A D 950-975. About this time a Rájá Kokalla II, of the Kalachuri dynasty, was on the throne of Chedi (see *ibid*, p 85). He and his successors, Gángeya Deva and Karnna Deva, carried on many successful wars. They must have invaded the territories of Mahoba and Kanauj, for Gángeya Deva is recorded to have died at Prayága, and his coins are found on the site of Kanauj. Karnna Deva must have reigned about A D 1025-1050, as he is recorded to have been a contemporary of Bhíma Deva of Gujarát (A D 1022-1072) and of Bhoja Deva of Dhár (A D 1021-1042), see *ibid*, p 86. This makes him also a contemporary of Śrī Chandra Deva, the first Rathor king of Kanauj (about A D 1050). I take it, therefore, that the inscription refers to Karnna Deva of Chedi.

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\* Not *Srikarnna*, as given in the transcript, see the following footnote

Further, in the second verse, Chandra Deva is called a son of Mahāla, which is either a mere provincialism or a clerical error for Mahītala. By the same name (Mahītala) Chandra Deva's father is called in the Rāhan land-grant of Govinda Chandra, published in the Proceedings for 1876, p 131\*. Usually his father is called Mahīchandra, while his son is always called Madanapāla†. This fact shows that the term Chandra was by no means so distinctive, as is often thought, of the Kanauj royal family. Terms like chandra, tala, pāla were interchangeable appendages to the actual name, and Mahīchandra might also call himself Mahītala or Mahīpāla. The Śāranāth inscription of Mahīpāla is dated A. D 1026,—a date which synchronises with Chandra Deva's father Mahīchandra, *alias* Mahīpāla. The father of the Śāranāth Mahīpāla was Vīrabhapa, while the father of Mahīchandra is called Yaśo-Vīrabha. As Pāla and Chandra are interchangeable, I take Vīrabhapa and Mahīpāla of Benares as likely to be the same as Yaśo-Vīrabha and Mahīchandra (*alias* Mahīpāla), the ancestors of Chandra Deva. Dates and names favour the identification.

But more, the date of Vīrabhapa and Mahīpāla is from A. D 991

\* The Basāhī plate spells सच्चित्तल *maḥāla*, but the Rāhan plate spells सच्चित्तल *maḥītala*. The name Mahītala means 'the very earth'. It is an unusual name, and if it were not for the fact that it agrees with the metre (Upendravajrā) of the verse in which it occurs, one would be inclined to look upon it as one of the clerical errors (for Mahīpāla) with which this particular record abounds. The copper-plate is among the Society's collection, where I have examined it, and verified the correctness of the printed transcript of the second verse. As it is, 'Mahītala' evidently owes its origin merely to the exigencies of the metre. Of the other grant, published in the Journal for 1873, I have not seen the original, which appears to be in Allahabad. But I possess, through the kindness of Mr J F Fleet, a very carefully prepared ink-impression, which clearly shows the name to be Mahāla, not Mahīla as published in the Journal. In all probability 'Mahāla' is a clerical error, apparently for 'Mahītala,' but the latter is not required by the metre of the verse (No 2), which is a śloka, and which admits of reading 'Mahīpāla' equally well. I may add here that the ink-impression clearly proves the name of the predecessor of Chandra Deva to be *Karna*, not *Karila* as given in the transcript. The signs for *n* and *l*, which often occur in the grant, are easily distinguishable from each other (ल and ळ), and the sign of *nn* in the name is a distinct double *nn* (ण्ण).

† There may have been a special reason for Madana reverting to the ancestral title of 'Pāla,' in the fact of his extending his kingdom over portions of the old Pala empire. For two inscriptions of his, dated in his 3rd and 19th years, have been found at Bihār and at Jayanagar near Lakhī Sarai respectively. (See Genl Cunningham's Arch. Survey Rep., Vol XV, p 154). The Madanapāla of these inscriptions is usually placed among the later members of the proper Pala dynasty, but beyond the fact of the title of 'Pāla' there is nothing in favor of that theory.

to 1058 (see Appendix, No II, also J A S B, Vol XLVII, p 394), which synchronises with the date of the Chedi rulers, Kokalla II, Gāngeya and Karna. The Chedi rulers were of the Hanhara race (see Genl Cunningham's Arch Rep, Vol IX, p 77), and Vighrahapāla is said to have married Jayī, a princess of the Hanhara race (J A S B, Vol XLVII, p 384). The Palas of Benares and the Kalachuris of Chedi, therefore, were closely allied. Now Vinyakapāla Deva of the earlier Kanauj line possessed Benares about A D 950-975 (J A S B, Vol XXXI, p 5), but, according to the Sirmāth inscription, in A D 1026, Mahipala of the Bihār (and Bengal) line is in possession of Benares. The latter therefore must have changed hands in the interval. This must have occurred in the 'troubled times,' when the Chedi kings conquered Kanauj, while the Palas (allied to them by marriage) conquered Benares.

I imagine the events to have occurred thus. Towards the end of the tenth century the Kalachuris and the Palas, being allied, attacked the kingdom of Kanauj from the South and East, the former took Kanauj, the latter Benares, for Jayapāla, the father of Vighrahapāla, is recorded to have conquered Allahābad (see J A S B, Vol XLVII, p 384). While the direct descendants of Mahipala continued to rule the Bihar and Bengal kingdom, including Benares, one of his younger sons, Chandra Deva, obtained for himself the kingdom of Kanauj, from the Kalachuri king Karna, and founded a new dynasty in Kanauj, which henceforth took from him its special name Chandra, in order, perhaps, to distinguish itself from the original stock of Palas. Hence Vighrahapāla and Mahipala, though named as the ancestors of Chandra Deva, are never included in the royal list of Kanauj.

But further, the Basahī plate of 1873 distinctly states, that Mahipala and Chandra Deva were of the Gaharwār race of Rājputs\*. The same statement occurs in the land-grant, published in the Proceedings for 1876, p 130. So far as I am aware, it does not occur in any of the land-grants of the Rāthor kings of Kanauj, except these two. In all the other grants, I think, no information whatever is given regarding the particular Rājput clan to which the kings professed to belong. The Rāthor clan is not mentioned in any of them. It has always been taken for granted that the kings of Kanauj were of the Rāthor clan. For this notion there appears to be no other ground than the tradition of the Rāthor princes of Jodhpur.

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\* The name is spelt गहड़वाद *gḍhadavāda* in the grants, the modern spelling is गहवरवाद *gahar'war* or (usually) गहरवार *gahar'war*. See Elliot's *Races of the N W Provinces*, Vol I, p 121.

in Márwár who affirm that Sivají, their ancestor, was a son of a child of Jaya Chandra of Kanauj. Now Jaya Chandra is a historical personage, he was the last of the Kanauj kings, who fell in battle with Shahab-ud-din Gorí, as testified by contemporary Muhammadan historians\*. Sivají also is a historical personage, a real ancestor of the Marwár Rathor house. The connecting link between Sivají and Jaya Chandra is a child, otherwise unknown, who is said to have escaped the wreck of his father's house and reign. History, I believe, knows nothing about him, and the tradition about him suspiciously resembles similar traditions of princely houses, who claim ancient descent by the agency of some mysteriously born or preserved child. In any case, if the tradition is correct, it fails to account for the remarkable fact, how a family which was originally Gaharwár, as stated in their own grants, turned into Rathors. In a matter of this kind the evidence of a contemporary land-grant is of more value than a tradition. But, in fact, the traditions, confused and sometimes contradictory as they are, rather support the theory here put forward. It is said that "the Gaharwárs are of the same family as the Rathors, with whom they deem themselves on an equality and with whom it is said they never intermarry." The last statement, however, is only partially true. It does not appear that the (modern) Rathors can be traced further back than the Kanauj family; and Colonel Tod says that a doubt hangs over the origin of the Rathor race, by the bards they are held to be descendants of Kusjapa†. In reference to the latter point, it may be noticed that the Gaharwárs are of the Kusjapa gotra or order, though the Rathors now profess to be of the Sindilya gotra. All these circumstances point to the conclusion that the so-called Rathors were an offshoot of the Gaharwárs, and it may well be that about the time of Mahípal a separation took place in the Gaharwár clan, possibly on religious grounds, for the Pálas professed Buddhism, while the Chandras were Brahmans. The separation was marked by the secession of the latter to Kanauj, and by a change in their nomenclature (Chandra and Rathor, for Pála and Gaharwár). "The Gaharwárs are despised by the other Rájput tribes," according to Tod (*Rajasthan*, Vol. I, p. 116). The original reason of this treatment may have been their heretical faith in the time of the Pálas. The Rathors would not be the only offshoot from the Gaharwár clan, the well-known Bundels (of Bundelkhand) are another prominent instance of Gaharwar descent. Again "the Gaharwárs assert that they were originally masters of Kanauj, local tradition confirms their

\* See Major Raverty's Translation of the *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*, p. 473.

† See his *Rajasthan*, Vol. I, p. 88. (Reprint, pp. 67, 68.)

claims, and the Gautama Rājputs attribute their own residence and possessions in the Lower Doab to the bounty of a Gahapwār Rājā of Kanauj." This tradition evidently refers to the Rathor rulers of Kanauj, and confirms the statement of their land grants, that they were Gahapwārs. Again "the present chief of the Gahapwārs resident Kāntit near Mirzapur, and tradition says, Gādan Deo, who by some is reckoned the son of Māmika Chandra, brother of Jayachandra, the Rathor, came from Benares about the end of the 11th century, and settled at Kāntit." This, as Sir Henry Elliot points out, is a confused tradition. Perhaps it points to the secession and emigration from Benares under Sri Chandra, at the time of Mahipala. In any case, it clearly establishes the closest relationship between the Rathors and Gahapwārs. Again "Benares is generally considered the original country of the Gahapwārs, who, it is often asserted, are descended from ancient kings of Benares," and their chief seat is still in the Benares Division and in Bihar. This makes in support of the theory that the Palā kings of Bihar and Bengal, who also ruled in Benares, belonged to the Gahapwār clan, and consequently were closely related to the Rathors of Kanauj.\* It is true there is an indistinct tradition, which ascribes the Palā Rājās to the Bhūihar race†. But there is no proof of it. In their inscriptions the Palās make no mention of their caste. On the other hand, there are various incidental notices in them, which indicate their having been of a Rājput caste. Thus Virādihapala is said to have married the princess Lajjā of the Huhuva race (see App. No. II), this would hardly have occurred if the Palā Rājās had really belonged to a non-descript race, like the Bhūihārs.

I only throw this out as a suggestion. It is by no means a new one, Mr Prinsep already made it in *J A S B*, Vol IV, p. 670. But much additional information in support of it has since come to light.

## NO. II.

In computing the chronology of the Palā dynasty too much reliance is still placed on the Aṅgichih inscription. But its mutilated state renders it practically useless unless where it is supported by other documentary evidence. Moreover, the description given by Mr Colebrooke of its genealogy, which has hitherto been always relied on, is very inaccurate. He

\* See the traditions, above quoted, of the Gahapwārs and Rathors in Elliot's *Races of the N W Provinces*, pp. 121-124, and Sherring's *Hindu Tribes and Castes*, Vol. I, pp. 140, 141, 175-177.

† See Gen. Cunningham's *Arch. Survey Rep.*, Vol. XV, p. 147, *Calcutta Review*, Vol. LIX, p. 68. For an account of the Bhūihārs see Elliot's *Races of the N W Provinces*, Vol. I, p. 21.



states (As Res, Vol IX, p 435) "The first mentioned is Lokapála, and after him Dharmapála. The next name has not been deciphered but the following one is Jayapála, succeeded by Devapála. Two or three subsequent names are yet undeciphered one seems to be Náráyana, perhaps Náráyana-pála. they are followed by Rájapála,—Páladeva and Vighrapála Deva, and subsequently Mahípála Deva, Nayapála and again Vighrapála Deva "

The A'mgáchhí plate is in the Society's collection, where I have subjected it to a careful re-examination, with the following result The first name is not Lokapála (which is mis-read for Lokanátha), but Gopála Deva (first word of the 5th line), then comes Dharmapála Nripa (middle of the 6th line) The next undeciphered name is Vákpála (near the beginning of the 7th line), called the Anuja or 'younger brother' of Dharmapála The following name is Jayapála, succeeded by Devapála, his Púrvaja 'or elder brother' (both in the middle of the 8th line) The two subsequent, undeciphered names are Vighrapála (1st word of the 9th line), and Náráyana Prabhu (middle of the 10th line), there is no third undeciphered name So far (that is, up to the 11th line) the record is nearly a duplicate of the Bhagalpur grant (J A S B, Vol XLVII, pp 284, 404), with the exception of three laudatory verses which are omitted in the A'mgáchhí grant Then follows the name Rájya-pála (last word of the 11th line), not Rájapála, as Mr Colebrooke read it, and immediately afterwards (near the beginning of the 12th line) Lokapála, apparently qualifying Rájya-pála Next comes (1st word of the 13th line) an altogether illegible name (not Pála Deva), who is described as the son (*prasúta*) of a lucky queen (*bhágya-devyákh*) of (as it would seem) Rájya-pála \* Then follows again Vighrapála Deva (last word of the 14th line), then Mahípála Deva (middle of the 16th line), then Nayapála Nripatí (middle of the 17th line), then again Vighrapála Deva Nripatí (end of the 18th line) So far extends Mr Colebrooke's reading, and up to this place, that is from the 11th to the 20th line, the text of the A'mgáchhí grant is new From the 21st line up to the end, the A'mgáchhí grant again almost verbally agrees with the Bhagalpur grant, excepting only the names of the

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\* The eleventh line closes with *Srímā(n)*, which is the usual commencement of a name. Now the verse, of which *Srímān* are the two initial syllables, is a 'Sragdhará' of 21 syllables, divided into three parts of 7 syllables each The quantities of the first part, of 7 syllables, are — — — — —, of which the first two lengths are taken up by *Srímān* Into the remaining quantities — — — — — the name must be fitted, but *Vighrapālo* will not do. Colebrooke read *pāladevo*, which, supposing it to be completed into *vākpāladevo* or the like, would do But there are no traces of *deva* visible, if anything, the traces indicate *pālo* to have been the last two syllables of the title, so that the quantities — — — would remain for the real name

donor, the donation (lines 24-26) and the donee (lines 36-40) The name of the donor is Vīgrahapāla Deva (middle of the 24th line), the successor (*pādānudhyāta*) of Nayapāla Deva (end of the 23rd line) He is again named, at the end of the grant, as Vīgrahapāla Kṣhītipati-tīlaka (middle of the 48th line) There is nothing to bear out Mr. Colebrooke's remark, that "in the making of the grant Nayapāla likewise appears to have had some share"

Imperfectly as this grant can be read, it affords no ground for extending the Pāla genealogy beyond Vīgrahapāla (so-called 'the first') The grant to a very large extent verbally agrees with the Bhagalpur grant of Nārāyanapāla, its letters seem to be, if anything, of a rather older type, and there can be little doubt but that it is a grant of Nārāyaṇa's father, Vīgrahapāla The opening lines of it are identical with those of the Bhagalpur grant, down to Vīgrahapāla, but while the latter grant goes on to describe Nārāyanapāla as being on the throne and making a gift of land the Aṁgāchhī grant mentions Nārāyanapāla (or rather Nārāyaṇa Piābhu) merely as a son of Vīgrahapāla, and the latter as making the gift of land This points to the line of ruling kings ending, at the time of the Aṁgāchhī grant, with Vīgrahapāla It is true, after the first mention of Vīgrahapāla, there follow several names, *viz*, Rājyapāla (Mahīpāla?), Vīgrahapāla, Mahīpāla, Nayapāla, Vīgrahapāla, the last of these being the donor As the record is not yet fully read, it is, of course, impossible to determine with absolute certainty the significance of this series of names But the very order of repetition in which they follow, suggests that some of them are not new names It is not an unprecedented feature in such land-grants, that, after giving the genealogical line, the writer once more recurs to some of the names already mentioned, for the purpose of giving further particulars, an instance in point is the grant of Govinda Chandia, published in the Proceedings for 1876, p. 131 Having brought the royal line down to Vīgrahapāla, the grantor, the record, before declaring the grant, apparently proceeds to add some particulars regarding the relation of Vīgrahapāla to Rājyapāla, and Mahīpāla That Rājyapāla did not come after Vīgrahapāla and Nārāyanapāla is proved by the Mungir grant, published in the Asiatic Researches, Vol. I, p. 133, which states that he was the son and heir-apparent (*yuvarāja*) of Devapāla He was, therefore, a brother of Vīgrahapāla Mahīpāla's relation to him and to Vīgrahapāla is not intelligible from the imperfectly legible record, but he is clearly in some way cotemporary with Vīgrahapāla As to Nayapāla, he is evidently the same as Devapāla, for in the genealogy Vīgrahapāla's predecessor is called Devapāla, but afterwards in the statement of the grant he is called Nayapāla

I, Gopála (7) [20]	...	..	..	906 A D
II, Dharmapála (26) [30]	Válpála	...	...	926 "
III, Devapála (or Nayapála) (38) [35]	Jayapála	.	.	956 "
IV, Vighrapála (or Súrúpála) (13) [15]	Rájjapála	.	.	991 "
VI, Náráyana (of Bengal) (17) [20]	V, Mahípála (of Benares) (48) [50]	1,006	..	..
The later Pálas (of Benares)		Chandra Deva (of Kanauj)		

The date of Mahípála is known from the Benares inscription to be A D 1026. His contemporary Náráyanapála reigned at least seventeen years (Arch Rep, Vol XI, p 181). Accordingly their accession may be dated about 1006. The highest known regnal number of Vighraha is 13, he may have succeeded in A D 991. The highest known regnal number of Devapála is 38, he may have succeeded in A D 956. The highest known regnal number of Dharmapála is 26 (Proceedings for 1880, p 80), his date of accession will be A D 926. The highest known number of Gopála is 7, but all tradition agrees in giving him a very long reign of 45 or 55 years (Arch Rep, Vol XV, p 150), a limit of 20 years, therefore, will be safe, and to him A D 906 may be given. Altogether this gives 120 years to five generations, which is certainly not too much. But there is a curious piece of evidence, which tends to confirm the date thus assigned to Devapála, viz, A D 956-91. In the 'huge' Gwalior inscription noticed by Mr FitzEdward Hall (J A S B, Vol XXXI, pp. 6-8), a king Devapála is mentioned, with the date Samvat 1025, corresponding to A D 968\*. This exactly agrees with the date assigned to the Bengal Devapála, and as he is recorded to have made wide conquests towards the West, his mention in the Gwalior inscription would be accounted for. His warlike expeditions towards the West would bring him into contact with the Haihaya rulers of Chedi, and thus explain the statement in the Bhagalpur grant of the alliance of his son, Vighrapála, with a Haihaya princess. Moreover, they would also explain the fact of the coins of Vighraha imitating the Sassanian type (see his coins in Arch Rep, Vol XI, pp 176, 177). As to Mahípála, he is reported in Táránáth's History to have reigned 52 years—a statement which is borne out by two inscriptions found by Mr J E.

\* Mr Hall gives also the date 1005, but it must be a misprint, for his equivaluations A D. 968 or A D 1103 (on p 8) only agree with the other date 1025, given in the bottom line of p 7.

Lincke at Imadpur (in the Muzaffarpur district) and dated in the 48th year of his reign \* Accordingly Mahípála's reign may be put down as having extended from A D 1006 to 1058 †

The history of the Pála empire about the turning of the 10th and 11th centuries, I imagine to have been thus The empire included Bengal, Bihár and Audh (Gaur, Patna and Benares), and the Pála rulers were Buddhists Towards the end of the 10th century a great disruption took place Bengal under Náráyana-pála became Brahmanic, while Bihár and Audh under Mahípála remained Buddhist ‡ In the beginning of the 11th century another disruption took place,—Bihár under Mahípála's successors remained Buddhist, while Audh under Chandra Deva, a son of Mahípála, who made Kanauj his capital, became Brahmanic Bihár remained Buddhist till the Muhammadan conquest destroyed the remnant of the ancient Pála kingdom Náráyana was probably assisted in the separation which he effected, by the Bengal Governors sprung from the Sena family, who were in charge of the province of Paundra Vardhana The Sena family was intensely Brahmanic, and two of the earliest members of it, Samanta and Hemanta, synchronise with Náráyana's date (A D 1006-1026) It was probably the successor of the latter, who was supplanted in the Bengal kingdom by Vijaya Sena (or Sukha Sena), the first Bengal king (though the fourth in descent) of the Sena family, whose date is about A D 1030 In the Baqirganj grant he is stated, in so many words, to have "rooted out those of the race of Bhúpála" (verse 6, see J A S B, Vol VII, pp 43-47) § Bhúpála is a

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\* See Proceedings for 1876, p 98 The inscriptions, which are identical, are engraved below two groups of bronze figures, and the date runs as follows औमन्-महिपालदेवराजस समत् ४८ जेददिन सुकल्पच २।

† This is also Gen Cunningham's conclusion in Arch. Survey Rep, Vol XV, p 153 (A D 1008—1060). In the Proceedings for 1876, p 107, Dr Burnell communicated an inscription of the Chola king Kulottunga, which gives Mahipala's date as A D 1093 As the date refers to the conquest of Bengal and Mahipála, perhaps it may be taken as the date of Mahipála's death in battle It is difficult, however, to make this date harmonise with the Śāranātha date of A D 1026 The difference is 77 years, a period much too long to have been the reign of one person, even if we assume the traditional allowance of 52 years to fall short of the truth. It is clear that there is something wrong about one or the other of the two dates But in any case, it is only a question of about 20 or 30 years, within which the above calculated dates of the Pála reigns may require adjustment

‡ As Mahipála's reign was much longer than Náráyana's, he may have temporarily regained possession of the whole of the ancestral empire, after Náráyana's death

§ Prinsep's Paudít translated "rooting out the families of the inimical royal lines" But *Gaur-Bhupala vamsayan* means simply "the inimical descendants of



[7] malumá Vákpíla-namaunyah | yah S'riman naya-vikramaika-vasati[r] bhrituh sthutih śásme śunjá śatru-patákinibhur akarod eka-  
tipatia diśih [||] <sup>4</sup>Tasmád u-

[8] pendri-charitair jagatín punánah putro babhúva vijaví Jayapála-  
námí | dharmadvishu[m] śamrayitá vudhu Devapále yah pú[r]vjo (?)  
bhuvana-ríjya-sukhánv avasut || <sup>5</sup>S'rimá-

[9] n Vighrahpálas tat-śūnur Ajatástrur iva jútah | śatru vanitá-  
prasadhaur vilopi-vimaláśa-jaladhírah || <sup>6</sup>Dikpálur kshiti-pálanája dadha-  
tām dehe vibha-

[10] kti śivah S'rimantam jura . ta tanayam Naráyanaam sa  
prabhum | vah ksham-patibuh śromani-rucháśhishítānglu-pithopala[m]  
na ivopittam rā[ṃ]chakāra charitrah

[11] svair eva dhā[r]māsuam || <sup>7</sup>Tapá jaladhí-múla-gabhíra-gar-  
bhe dev dāyus cha kula-bhúta-ratur(ava) kākshah | vikhyáta-kirtir abha-  
vat tanayas cha tasya S'ri-Rajapala-

[12] (m) lokpálih || <sup>8</sup>Tasya va kshiti(vya)n nidhur iva mahasá  
ríjavakúś pe pujoyasyottunga-maule dūhitar tanayo Bhágya-de-yá  
prautah [ ] S'rimí-

[13] \*u (*about one third of the line omitted*) bhavya nnaikaratna  
tikhratavargih śi vigrimsukayoh || <sup>9</sup>Jasaminarājyagunairatnamamāse-  
vita

[14] (*about one fourth omitted*) prabhusakti rakshmah pūrvvīm svrat-  
nām iva ślapatra || <sup>10</sup>Tasmíd babhava savitur vasukoivardhí | kalena  
chandra-(va)-Vighrahpáladeva[h] ||

[15] <sup>11</sup> penavimalea kalí(tpadena) | (á)ábhítēna panito blu-  
vanasya tápah || <sup>12</sup>Bhava-sakali-virakshah sangare vá pradarpád anadhukri-  
ta-vilagnam rájyam ásadya pitryam [ ]

[16] nasmábhúd . . . . . vāmpálah S'ri-Mahípála-de-  
vāh || <sup>13</sup>Tyajan toshasāngā[m] sirā(śi) kritapádah kshiti-bhútvāvarne  
sarvasāhi prasabba-

[17] riva ravah [ ] bhava nnah smigdha prakṣitir anurāgo .  
vasati sma vá dhauyah prakhyaurajani Nayapálo narapatih || <sup>14</sup>Pitah san-  
ganale (vanah) smara-rupoh pújā-

[18] . . . . . vīśrame . . . . . dhikāra-bhavanah ka kṣite vidvishām |  
mantayam drayam āśrayah śivapasa pengaga ndavan ( ) S'rimad-  
Vighrahpála-deva-nripatih

[19] (*about three fourths omitted*) kṛtyasāndraikaru(prājahu)tāgrī-  
karaur-

[20] (*about one half omitted*) sa khalu Bhágirathí-patha-pravartta-  
māna-nānāvidha-nau vaṭaka-sampadita-setubandha-vibhita-

[21] sula-śikhara śreni-vibhramāt( ) nirati-śaya-ghana-ghana-ghana-ghattā-śyāmāyama-vāsara-lakshmi-samarabdhā-sannata-jaladā-samaya-sandehāt | udichināneka-

[22] narapati-prabhriti-kritāprameya-haya-vāhinī kharakhurotkl ity-dhūli-dhusarita-digantarālāt | Parameśvara-sevā-samāyātāśeshā-Jambudvīpa-bhūpālānanta-

[23] pādāt bharanamadavaneh (S'ri-Mudgagiri)-samāvāsita-simay jaya-skandhāvāt | parama-sogato Mabāra[ja]dhirāja-S'ri-Nayipādeva-pādānudhyātah parama-

[24] śvarah (paramabhattārako Mahārū)jādhirājah S'rimin Vignāpāla-devah kuśālī || S'ri Pundaroddhana . kau Koṭivarsham vishadham pati . . .

[25] ma (about one third omitted) (petana dhānā ha)lakalita || Kākinin upādhipkopamānadrayopeta .

[26] sa . . (ponnana) drom-dvaya-sameta || shaṭ(k)ālya-pramanā (ṭalu-ma)heśvara-sameta Vishamapurāmśe samupagatāśe-

[27] sha-rā(jā-purushān | rājara)nāka | rājaputra | rājāmātya | mahāsāndhivigrāhika | mahākshapaṭāhika | mahāsāmantā | mahāsenapati | mahāpratihāra |

[28] dauhsādbasadhanika | mahādandanāyaka | mahākumārāmātya | rājasthanoparika | dāsāparādhika | chauroddharanika | dāndika | dandapūsika | sau-

[29] Ikika | (gaulmika) | kshetrāpa | prāntapala | koshapāla | angaraksha | tadāyukta | vinayuktaka | hastyaśrośṭranayalavyāpṭitaka | kīśora | vadavā [ ] gomahishyajā-

[30] vi(kālyaksha | drutapesha)nika | gamūgamika | abhitraramāna | vishayapā | gramapati | tarika | goda | malika | bhūti | hūna | kulika | kallāta | lāta | chāta |

[31] (bhāta | sevakādīn | anyāp-s-chā)kīrtitān | rājapadopāyāna[h] | prativasiṇo brāhmanottarān | mahattamottama | ka mapi roga-mardāndha-chandāla-paryantān |

[32] (yathārham mānaya)ti | bodhayati | samādhivati cha | vitham astu bhavātā[m] | yathoparibhrito 'rdhagramah | sa-śimātrān pratisochara-paryantah | satalah | so(ddē-ih) |

[33] (sāmramadhūkah) | sayula(sthalah) | sigartto-dharah | pachārah | sachauoddharanah | parihrita-svapīdih | aśhātrā bhā praveśah | akiūchit-pragrāsakah | samasti-bha-

[34] ga-bhoga-kara-hiranyādi-pratyāya(ceal)sameti | bhūti-chhidranāyānā-

[35] chindrákṣa kṣhṭi-samak'īlam (*scal*) māt'ipitrōr itmanaś (cha  
punya)-

[36] vāśo 'bhaviddhaye bhagavantap vṛi (*scal*) ddha-bhaṭṭ'irakam  
uddisva (sasmikri-)

[37] tva sagotriva | Sandilva(*scal*)(māśva | daiva ) ra

[38] hariva brahmach'irne | S'ūnave(*scal*)dine | Kauthumī s'ikhā-  
dhy ya-

[39] ne | Mimamsā-nv'ikarṇa (sre)-tarkkavidyāvide | krodakṛti-  
muntā-mat-sya va sa (vimirgat'iva | tragramvāstavyava) | Vedānta-  
vikṛita (hnuvāna)-devaputriva | maho-

[40] padhyva rkkā-dva-putriva | (K'hobhūta)-deva-śarmmane |  
(s)magritha-vidhi ang'iva ('smat) śāsānikṛitya pradatto 'smabluh |  
ato bhavadbluh sarvav ev'ānumantā-

[41] vṛap bhavibhuvap bhūpitibluh l bhume[r] d'ūra-phala-gauravat |  
apraharaṇa cha mahamāṭka-pita-bhavyat | d'ūram idam anumodya-  
numodyanupalanīyama patavasi-

[42] kṣetrakarub || yū s'raṇa-vidhevi bhūva yathakalam samu-  
dita-bhigra-bhoṭa-kara huraṇy idi-praty yoprayah karyā iti || smat | 2 |  
chaṭṭadine 9 sarva-

[43] thitradharmīnus'israh-slok ih || 'bahubhi[r] vasudhā dattī r'ijā-  
bluh Sagar idibluh | vāyā vāyā yadī bhūmī-tasyā tasyā tādā phala[m] |  
'bhūmī[m] yah pratigṛīṇiti ityāś cha bhūmī[m] pra-

[44] yachelhatī | ubhan tva punyākarṇam ma nīyatam svargag am-  
na | 'gam ekam s'arṇnam ekañ cha bhūmer apy ekam angulam | haraṇ  
narakam āyati yav id abhut asamplavap || 'śrīśṭīvar-ha-

[45] sahasraṇi svarge modatī bhūmudah | akṣhepta chānumantū cha  
tāneva narakē vaset || 'vadattī[m] paridattī[m] va yo hareṭa vasundha-  
ram | sa visthayaṇi kṛiṇ[r] bhūtvā pi-

[46] tṛibluh saha pchayate || 'sarvān etān bhavinaḥ p'irthivendra[n]  
bhūyo bhūyaḥ prī[r]thiyaty esha rāmāḥ | samānyo 'y[an dh]armasetur  
nripanā[m] kāle kale pālānīyah kramena || 7-

[47] tī kam ila-dalambu-vindu-lolū[m] śrīyam anuchintya manushya-  
jīvitañ cha | sakalam idam udalīṇitañ cha buddhvā na hi purushaḥ  
parakīrtāyo vilopyah || 8yau .

[48] vī-kshama . . . mḍhu brahma . dhanādbhanye . .  
. . || S'ri-Vigrahapalāḥ kṣhṭipatī-tilako . . . | S'ri-pra-

[49] hāsa-rā(ja)māka (nni)nam iha śāsane bhūtam || Posalīgrāma-  
mryāta-Mahādhara-sūnunā idam sasanam utkīrnnam S'asīdeva . ||



## Notes

I have carefully re-examined the original plate of the Bhagalpur grant, which is in the Society's collection, for the purpose of the following notes.

*Verse 1.* The latter half of this verse in the Bhagalpur grant agrees with the A'mgáchhí grant, and reads as I have given it. The meaning is "who having overcome the over-powering strength of desire has (now) obtained everlasting peace, may he, Gopáladeva, be prosperous, being another (i.e., like) Daśabala (Buddha), the Lord of the world."

*Verse 2.* Both grants read distinctly *०निकेतनं समकरो वो०*, not *वंग्स्वकरोद्* as given in the Bhagalpur transcript, the meaning is "well able to sustain the weight of the earth, making it (the earth) to be like the native-place of Lakshmí, he became the only asylum of the princes who approached him (for protection) as if they were afraid that their wings might be clipt"—I may note here, that in the A'mgáchhí plate, the anuswáras and superscribed repbas are often wanting, whether from the engraver's carelessness or perhaps from the ravages of time, it is impossible to say. On the Bhagalpur plate they are always present. The repba, when it does appear on the A'mgáchhí plate, is often a minute stroke attached to the upper part of the left side of the letter.

*Verse 3.* This verse is, in the Bhagalpur grant, preceded by another, which is omitted in the A'mgáchhí grant.

*Verse 4.* The A'mgáchhí grant reads distinctly *पूर्वजो* (nom sing) If this should be correct, it would reverse the mutual relation of Jayapála and Devapála, making the former the elder brother of the latter. The context, however, certainly seems to confirm the reading of the Bhagalpur grant, which has equally distinctly *पूर्वजे*—The A'mgáchhí plate has *स्वैषीत्*, while the Bhagalpur plate has *सनैषीत्*, both equally distinctly. Both readings convey the same sense.

*Verse 5.* Another verse of the Bhagalpur grant is omitted here.

*Verse 6.* Here, again, a verse of the Bhagalpur grant is omitted—The Bhagalpur grant has *त्रियः*, not *धियः* as given in the transcript—The latter part of the first half of this verse is different in the Bhagalpur grant, which reads *S'ri-Náráyanapáladevaṃ asriyat tasyám sa punyottaram*

*Verse 7.* Here commences the portion which is peculiar to the A'mgáchhí grant.

*Line 20.* In the middle of this line, with *sa kkaḷu*, the identical portion of the two grants recommences.—The Bhagalpur plate has *váṭa* for *váṭaka*.

*Line 23.* The name of the capital should be S'ri-Mudgagiri. Though the number of the letters on the plate agrees with that name, their traces,

which are only very faintly visible, hardly seem to do so — The letters on the plate are only *Mahārādhirāja*, the syllable *ja* being omitted by mistake

*Line 24* From this line down to the end of line 26, the version of the *Āṃgāchhī* grant is new. It mentions the donor, *Vigrahapāla*, the province *Pundarvadhana*, and apparently a town *Koṭivarsha*.

*Line 26* At the end of this line the two grants again coincide. There is a mention here of a place *Tishamapura*.

*Line 28* The office of *mahākartaśrīṭika* is omitted in the *Āṃgāchhī* grant — To the title of *daṃṣasahasadhaṇika* the Bhagalpur grant prefixes *mahā* दो.सा० in the transcript of the latter grant is a misprint for दो.सा० as the original plate has it — The Bhagalpur grant has *rājasthānīyoparika* for *rājasthanoparika*, also *dāsāparadhika*, *dandapāsika* and *saulika*, with palatal ञ, while the *Āṃgāchhī* plate spells with the dental च

*Line 29* *Prāntapala* is clearly an error for *prāntapāla* — The Bhagalpur plate has *tadāyuktaka* for *tadayukta*, it also has *khandaraśha* instead of *angaraśha*

*Line 30* The Bhagalpur plate has *abhivamāna* (not *abhivamāna*, as in the transcript), clearly an error for *abhivaramāna*. It has also *viśhayapati* for *viśhayapā*, also *hūna*, not *hrana*, as in the transcript

*Line 31* The Bhagalpur plate has *rājapadopajvinah*, and it omits the imperfectly legible word *ka ma* or *ke ma*.

*Line 32* The Bhagalpur grant has *matam* inste. <sup>Mu</sup> *viditam* — After *bhavatām* it inserts two and a half lines containing particulars about *Nārāyaṇapāla*, which are omitted in the *Āṃgāchhī* grant. <sup>W</sup> *budda*.

*Line 33* After *sagarttośharah*, the Bhagalpur grant has a *soparīkharah* — *Pragrāśkah* is the correct reading in both grants, not *rayāśkah*, as given in the Bhagalpur transcript

*Line 35* The Bhagalpur grant inserts *yāvat* after *samāśālam*

*Line 36* From the middle of this line to the middle of the 40th line the *Āṃgāchhī* text is new

*Line 40* The name of the donee is *khobhūta?deva* — The Bhagalpur grant omits *asmābhik*, and has *tato* for *ato*

*Line 41* Both grants have *bhūmer*, not *bhramair*, as the Bhagalpur transcript gives — The Bhagalpur plate has only *apraharane* — This line in the *Āṃgāchhī* plate is very carelessly written, *anumodya* is twice repeated, and the last words should evidently be *anupālānyam prativāsibhih*



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## SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

IN THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS

FROM 1788 TO 1883.

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## IV.

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[Abbreviations A = Arabic D = Drávidian G = Gaudian I. A = Indo-Aryan of the N W Frontier: I C = Indo-Chinese K = Kolarian M = Malayan P = Páli Pr = Prakrit Ps = Persian S = Sanskrit T B = Tibeto-Birman]

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CENTENARY REVIEW  
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*From 1784—1883.*

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PART III.  
NATURAL SCIENCE.

BY  
P N BOSE

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Published by the Society.



## ERRATA

### PART III

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Pages 23 to 47, for '*Stratcgraphical Geology*,' read *Stratigraphical Geology*  
Page 65 for 'T Anderson,' read 'J Anderson'





# Centenary Review

OF THE

## ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL

*From 1784 to 1883.*

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Part III.

### NATURAL SCIENCE.

#### CHAPTER I

##### MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE \*

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Process of Engraving, &c — Waterhouse — Tenant    § 8 Mathematical Sciences of  
the Hindus — Davis — Jones — Burrow — Playfair — Bentley — Colebrooke — Hunter ]

##### § 1 — *Introductory*

WHEN the Asiatic Society was formed, the Biological and Geological Sciences were in a transition state. The end of the eighteenth century was the beginning of the history of Modern Natural Science. The different branches of Mathematical Science, however, had then attained to a high degree of excellence. Mathematics had for over

a century, been a recognized branch of study in European Universities; and men who came out to India, especially in the scientific branches of the Military service, had mostly been well grounded in that subject. Among the earlier members of the Society, therefore, we find a number of mathematicians of no mean order; and down to 1828 the only scientific contributions of any importance received by the Society were connected with some branch or other of Mathematics, pure or mixed.

§ 2.—*Astronomical Observations and the Trigonometrical Survey.*

The first number of the Society's *Transactions* contains

R Burrow  
1788—1795 \*

several articles by Reuben Burrow, an excellent mathematician. In 1787, he

was requested by Colonel Call, the then Surveyor-General, to determine astronomically the position of the principal places in Bengal. Burrow went up the Ganges as far as Haridwar, and the results of his astronomical observations, communicated to the Asiatic Society, were published in the fourth volume of the *Researches*. He intended to give a detailed account of the manner in which the latitudes and longitudes were deduced; but did not live to accomplish his purpose.

Colonel Pearse, Commandant of Artillery, contributed

T D Pearse.  
1788

to the first volume of the *Researches* a valuable record of astronomical obser-

vations made in Fort William and between Madras and Cal-

R H Colebrooke.  
1795

cutta between 1775 and 1784, and Lieutenant Colebrooke (the future Sur-

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\* These dates (which are mostly the dates of publication) have been given to facilitate reference to the accompanying Indices. When a contribution has appeared long after the date of communication, it has been ascertained, as approximately as possible, and inserted marginally, and the date of publication specially noted in the text.

veyor-General), who ably assisted Colonel Pearse, made observations of latitudes by meridian altitudes of stars, and of longitudes by eclipses of Jupiter's satellites on a voyage to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1790, and subsequently in the Carnatic, and communicated them to the Society in two papers published in the fifth volume of its *Transactions*.

In the list of members appended to the sixth volume of the

William Lambton,  
1799—1820

*Researches*, we find the name of Captain

William Lambton, a remarkable man, the father of the great Indian Survey. He distinguished himself highly by his bravery and presence of mind in the memorable siege of Seringapatam. On the conclusion of the Maisúr campaign, "having long reflected on the great advantage to general Geography that would be derived from extending a survey across the Peninsula of India for the purpose of determining the positions of the principal geographical points, and seeing that by the success of the British arms during the late glorious campaign, a district of country is acquired which not only opens a free communication with the Malabar Coast, but from its nature affords a most admirable means of connecting that with the Coast of Coromandel by an uninterrupted series of triangles, and of continuing that series to an almost unlimited extent in every other direction," he communicated his ideas to the Governor of Madras, who approved of them and appointed him to conduct the measurements. The apparatus with which he was at first equipped consisted of a chain of blistered steel constructed by Ramsden, five coffers, twelve pickets of three-inch diameter, hooped and shod with iron, and a levelling telescope. With these instruments he measured a base line near Bangálu, the particulars of which were communicated to the Society and published in the seventh volume of their *Transactions*.

Satellites." The same volume gives an account of the trigonometrical and astronomical operations undertaken by the surveyors to determine the heights and positions of the principal peaks of the Himálaya Mountains

George Everest, who came to Bengal as an Artillery Cadet in 1806, joined the Survey under Lambton in 1818. He succeeded his Chief as Superintendent of the Great Trigonometrical Survey in 1823. He was away in England from 1825—30, where he employed his time in studying the newest improvements and looking after the construction of instruments for the Survey on the latest and most approved principles. On his return to India, he delivered, before the Physical Class of our Society, a lecture, on the 11th of March, 1831, in illustration of the new measuring apparatus brought out by him. The substance of the discourse appears in the second part of the eighteenth volume of the *Researches*.

Everest, who combined in himself the appointments of Superintendent of the Great Trigonometrical Survey and Surveyor-General of India, retired in 1843, and was succeeded by Colonel (afterwards Sir) Andrew Waugh. A summary of the work done under his superintendence was communicated by Major (now Major-General) Walker, the present Surveyor-General, to the Asiatic Society in 1862. General Walker presented the Society with abstracts of the operations of the Trigonometrical Surveys down to 1864.

Captain Robert Shortrede, who was appointed to superintend the Bombay Longitudinal Series in 1827, and was subsequently placed in charge of the Punjab Revenue Survey from 1849 to 1856, was an active contributor on mathematical subjects. In 1841, he constructed a table which showed at once, without

G Everest  
1823—43

A. Waugh and J T  
Walker

R Shortrede  
1840—43

calculation, the mean times of new and full Moon, &c, as also the Moon's age to the nearest day. It is published in the twelfth volume of the *Journal*, along with a Companion to the Moon Table, which was constructed in order to have the times of time as well as of mean new and full Moon.

The Venerable Archdeacon Pratt, one of the best  
J. H. Pratt  
1838-1855 mathematicians India has ever seen, was long and actively connected with the Society. The Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society for January 9, 1857, contained a paper by Lieutenant (now  
J. F. Tennant  
1857- Major-General) J. F. Tennant, Bengal Engineers, on "An Examination of the Figure of the Indian Meridian as deduced by Archdeacon Pratt from the two Northern Indian Arcs, with a Proposition for testing that form by Astronomical Observations." This called forth a reply from the Archdeacon, which was published in the *Journal* for 1858. He concludes his communication with remarks on the position, at that time, of the question of the Himalayan attraction, as affecting the Great Trigonometrical Survey. Colonel Tennant communicated a counter-reply which drew forth another article from Pratt. In this he reiterated his opinion that the Himalayan attraction was not to be trifled with and passed over. "The Himalayas are as great a tyrant," says he, "in the delicate problem of determining the curvature of the arc of the Meridian in Hindusthan as the planet Jupiter is in the Solar System." The Archdeacon explains the object of his writing to have been not to detect and expose flaws in the operations of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, but to assist in pointing out the sources of error and the further observations and surveys which are necessary to remedy the evils which must inevitably follow if these sources of error are not attended to.

The discovery of a lofty peak near Káshmir by Major Montgomerie in 1859, only 724 feet lower than Mount Everest, led Mr Pratt to write another paper on the influence of mountain attraction, which was read at the September meeting of the Society. He concludes by stating his persuasion, that when sufficient data were obtained to make the calculation complete, it would be found that mountain attraction, combined with deficiency of attraction of the ocean, so far affects the levelling of the instruments of observation as to cause the survey to bring out the height of the newly-discovered mountain near Káshmir too low by 150 or 200 feet relatively to Mount Everest. The last of his contributions appeared in the *Journal* for 1865, entitled "On the degree of uncertainty, which local attraction, if not allowed for, occasions in the map of a country and in mean figure of the earth."

Glanville Taylor, who was Astronomer in charge of the Madras Observatory from 1830 to 1848, contributed a paper to the *Journal*, in which he described a method of making "the telescope a collimator to itself, by viewing the image of the wires reflected from a basin of quicksilver at the same time that the direct image is viewed in the ordinary way through the eye-piece." To accomplish this, he showed it was only necessary "to exhibit a bright light behind the wires, so as not to interfere with the eye of the observer when applied to the eyepiece." In another article, published seven years later, he recorded the observations of the magnetic dip and intensity at Madras.

The Rev. R. Everest was a frequent contributor. We shall have to speak of him later on in connection with Geological investigations. He is the author of a series of papers on the Revolution of the Seasons, the Influence of the Moon on

T & Taylor  
1831—1837

R Everest  
1832—39

Atmospheric Phenomena, the Heights of the Barometer as affected by the position of the Moon, the Amount of Rainfall at Calcutta as affected by the declination of the Moon, &c. The list of his long list of contributions is contained in the eighth volume of the Society's *Journal*, in which he records his observations on the rain and drought in India from 1831 to 1838

### § 3 — *Meteorology*

Colonel Pearse, whose astronomical labours we have  
 T D Pearse  
 1788 noticed before, kept a Meteorological Journal at Calcutta, between 1785 and 1788, which was printed in the first number of the *Asiatic Researches*. The earliest meteorological record extant in India, however, is that kept by Henry Trail  
 H Trail  
 1790 from the 1st of February 1784 to the 31st of December 1785, which was published two years later in the next number of the same publication

The illustrious James Prinsep, to whom this Society  
 J Prinsep  
 1820—39 is so largely indebted for its success and prosperity, and whose name is so well and so widely known in connection with archæological researches, rendered no mean service in the cause of the Mathematical and Natural Sciences. His, like Sir W. Jones's, was a remarkably versatile genius. But the former had the advantage of having had a thorough scientific training in England before he came out to India. In 1819, at the age of twenty, he was appointed Assistant Assay Master at the Calcutta Mint, under Horace Hayman Wilson, the eminent orientalist. In the following year he went to Benares as Assay Master, while there he made a series of careful meteorological investigations, which he communicated to the Asiatic Society. He returned to Calcutta in 1830, and co-operated heartily with Major Herbert in starting a periodi-



cal called "Gleanings in Science" On the appointment of the latter as Astronomer in charge of the Nabáb of Oude's Observatory at Lucknow in 1831 Prinsep became the editor of the periodical; and on March 7th, 1832. changed its name to "The Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal." He was elected Secretary to the Physical Section of the Society on the 19th of August, 1830; and General Secretary on the 9th January, 1833.

The first volume of the *Journal* contains an account of Prinsep's Observations of the Transit of Mercury on the 5th of May, 1832, made with a 4-feet achromatic telescope of 4-inch aperture, mounted equatorially and provided with a delicate wire micrometer. In March, 1833, he published the results of his experiments on the expansion of gold, silver, and copper, and two months later described a compensation barometer invented by him. One of the subjects to which Prinsep devoted a great portion of his time and attention was observation of the wet-bulb indications. He had with but little intermission registered daily observations since 1822. In July 1836, he contributed a paper to the *Journal*, entitled "Experimental Researches on the Depressions of the Wet-bulb Hygrometer."

The earlier volumes of the *Journal* contain a number of Meteorological Registers from various stations\*. The most important of these were the "Term Observations" made in compliance with Sir W. Herschel's instructions. Hoary

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\* Simla, v 825, Bijnúr ii 206, Bombay v 821, Katmandu v 821 822, and xii 768, Tírhut v 822, Socotra, v 821, Bangalur, v 296, Dárgah v 310, 700, 888, Ráingun, xxii 113, 317, 421, 562, 576, xxiii (1) Bámbará i 154 ii 383, Chinsurá ii 86, Ghazipur, ii 604, Lucknow, xxiii 76, Mawarrá ii 20, Kotgar, ii 615, Chirápunji, i 297, Canton and Macao, i 703, Morárpur ii 208, Nágpur, ii 241 543, Singápur, ii 423, Nasirábád, iv 49, Mawarrá ii 715, Dádúpur, v 299, Umbalá, iv 405

observations of the barometer, thermometer, and wet-bulb thermometer were taken at Calcutta on the 21st and 22nd of December, 1835, and again on the 21st and 22nd of March, 1836, by Mr H Barrow, Mathematical Instrument-maker to the East India Company. Similar observations were taken at Bangalūr by Dr J Mouat, and at Dindupur by Colonel Colvin and Lieutenants Baker and Durand. All these records were printed in 1836 in the fifth volume of the *Journal*. The same volume also contains a paper by Prinsep on "A Comparative View of the Daily Range of the Barometer in different parts of India."

Major Boileau, author of a "New and complete set of  
T. J. Boileau  
1841—45 Traverse Tables, showing the differences of latitude and the departure to every minute of the quadrant," and Superintendent of the Magnetic Observatory at Sunlá, contributed the results of his physical investigations to the *Journal*, among which were tables for determining the elastic force of aqueous vapour in the atmosphere and the temperature of the dewpoint, by observations of a dry and wet-bulb thermometer, computed agreeably to Dr Aphjohn's formula, and tables of mean astronomical refractions.

The Messrs Schlagentweit, who conducted a Magnetic  
Messrs Schlagentweit  
1854—55 Survey from 1854 to 1858, published then reports in the pages of the *Journal*. These reports contain a great variety of observations—geographical, meteorological, geological, &c.

The Meteorological observations taken at the Surveyor-General's Office have appeared regularly  
R. Shikdár  
1853—64 in the *Journal* and the *Proceedings* down to 1876. From 1853 to 1864, they were compiled by Rádhánáth Shikdár, who was for several years on the Physical Science Committee of the Society.

Mr. Blanford joined the Geological Survey in 1855; but left it in 1861, and became Professor at the Presidency College. Six years later, he was appointed Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal; and in 1875 became Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India. Mr. Blanford was Secretary to the Society from 1864 to 1868, and has long been a most valuable member. He contributed in 1871 a Note on the error of the Calcutta Standard Barometer compared with those of Kew and Greenwich. In 1875, he read a paper in which he showed the variation of the sun's heat to be so considerable as to 'have an appreciable effect on all terrestrial phenomena, and recommended direct actinometric observations as the only means of ascertaining the variation in the absolute quantity of heat. The *Journal* for 1876 contains his observations on "The irregularities of atmospheric pressure in the Indian monsoon region," besides a paper on "Comparisons of dewpoint temperature," and another on the "Physical explanation of the inequality of the two semidiurnal oscillations of barometric pressure." In the first of these papers it is shown, that amid all the changes to which atmospheric pressure is subject, certain peculiar features tend to perpetuate themselves, though they never become permanent, and that these peculiarities in the distribution of barometric pressure exercise an important influence on the rainfall, by affecting the course and velocity of the winds which bring the rain. The second paper brings together the results of a number of experiments made in various parts of India with the object of comparing the observed hygrometric state of the atmosphere ascertained by Regnault's Hygrometer, with that computed with the help of the dry and wet-bulb thermometers. In the last-named article, Mr. Blanford attributes a great part of the diurnal irregularity of the barometric tides to

H F Blanford.  
1870—

the transfer of air from land to sea and *vice versâ*, and to a similar transfer which may be proved to take place between the plains and the mountains. In 1877, the Society received two contributions from Mr. Blanford, one "On the Variation of the Barometrie Tides in connection with diurnal land and sea breezes" and the other "A Catalogue of the recorded Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal up to the end of 1876," and the following year, a paper was read by him on the "Diurnal Variations of the Rainfall frequency at Calcutta." In January 1880, Mr. Blanford showed that the excessive pressure of 1876—78 was the maximum phase of a cyclical variation in India and the Malay region, but in Northern Asia it was quite anomalous, and most probably so in Australia. In April 1881, he discussed the circumstances chiefly determining those marked variations of temperature which characterize the corresponding seasons of different years in India, and the variations in the density of the lower and higher strata of the atmosphere, as shown by a comparison of the barometrie pressure at hill-stations with the pressure on the plains. The last of his long and valuable series of contributions appeared in the last volume of the *Journal*, in which he gave some further results of his sun thermometrie investigations with reference to atmospheric absorption and the supposed variation of the solar heat.

#### § 4 — *Tidal Observations*

The earliest Register of Tidal Observations extant in this country is that of the day and night tides in the Hughli at Kidderpûr from 1805 to 1828, by James Kyd, the founder and the then proprietor of the Kidderpûr Dockyard. The observations were published in the first part of the eighteenth volume of the *Researches*.

J. KYD  
1829

The heights of the tides are exhibited in maps showing the state of the river throughout the year. In 1833, a table (the earliest of the kind in Western India), showing the rise of spring tides in Bombay Harbour during night and day, was communicated by Benjamin Noton. In the same year Dr. Whewell's "Suggestions to persons who have opportunities to make or collect observations of the tides" appeared in the *Journal*, and the observations which were received in conformity with these suggestions were published in the

*Journal* between 1837 and 1850. About  
 J T Walker and J Waterhouse 1878 the year 1865 or 1866, the late Dr. Oldham, Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, drew the attention of the Government of India to certain questions which had been raised regarding secular changes in the relative level of the land and sea, which are believed to be going on in various parts of the Bombay Presidency and more particularly at the head of the Gulf, which separates the Province of Cutch from Kattiwar, and he recommended that accurate tidal and levelling observations should be made in that part of the country and repeated at intervals of time sufficiently great to allow the secular changes to reach an appreciable magnitude, and so settle the question. The Government of India sanctioned the proposal, and after some delay operations were commenced in 1872 by Captain A W. Baird, under the direction of Lieut-General J. T. Walker, Superintendent of the Great Trigonometrical Survey. An interesting account of the early operations during the years 1873 to 1875 was compiled by Major (then Captain) J. Waterhouse and communicated by General Walker in 1878. Tidal observations are now taken regularly at several stations round the coasts of the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal.

§ 6 — *Electrical Researches.*

Sir W. O. Shaughnessy,\* Professor of Chemistry at the  
W. B. O. Shaughnessy Medical College and for some time Joint  
1840-42 Secretary to the Society, contributed

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\* Sir W. O. Shaughnessy was the first Director of Telegraphs in India. He was Secretary of the Society in 1838-39, and again from 1846 to 1850.

various papers, among which were several on electrical subjects, the most notable among these being entitled "Memoranda relative to Experiments on the communication of Telegraph Signals by induced electricity."

To the late Mr. Schwendler, who was for many years a most active member, the Society owes a number of valuable papers

L Schwendler  
1871-81

A votary of science in the true sense of the expression, he took a prominent part in the scientific movements of the day, and will be long remembered as one of the founders of the Zoological Gardens—an institution which promises to be a centre of zoological study in India. The first paper he read was on a practical method for detecting bad insulators on Telegraph lines, published in the *Proceedings* for March, 1871. He found that a great many lines in India contained electrically defective insulators; some to such an extent as to lower the insulation to a degree which is fatal to the direct and regular working of long lines. Mr. Schwendler exhibited an apparatus for testing the resistance of insulators, and explained in detail the advantages of his method. In February 1874, he communicated an article "On the Theory of Duplex Telegraphy." Considering the line as a variable conductor only, but not acting perceptibly as a Leyden Jar, Mr. Schwendler found that, by using the Bridge Method, the branches of the bridge, with the exception of the one which lies opposite to the line, should be made each equal to half the measured conductor resistance of the line; while the branch opposite to the line should be equal to the sixth part of this resistance. Further, that this branch, the smallest of all, should be invariably used for readjusting balance when disturbed. In June 1874, he read a paper on Earth-currents, in which he pointed out that though the two phenomena, 'earth-magnetism' and 'earth-currents,' were

undoubtedly connected with each other, it was by no means established as yet that they were cause and effect, or parallel effect of one and the same general, but entirely unknown, cause. Mr. Schwendler proposed to the Council of the Society to urge on Government the introduction of a system of observation of earth-currents, the Council took up the proposal most warmly, and appointed him, along with Colonel Hyde, who was then President of the Society, and Mr. R. S. Brongh, to work out a practical system.

In 1876, General Strachey had recommended to the Secretary of State for India that a trial of illuminating Indian railway stations by the electric light should be made. In February 1877, Mr. Schwendler, as Superintendent Electrician of Government Telegraphs in India, was requested to institute detailed inquiries, which led him to propose that it would be advisable to make some more experiments before a practical trial at Indian railway stations should be attempted. The Directors of the East Indian Railway agreed to this and sanctioned the necessary outlay. The experiments which were made at the India Office Stores, occupied Mr. Schwendler till November, 1878. The results of these experiments he laid before the Society in March 1879, and they are printed in the *Proceedings* for that month. Next month he read a paper on a "New Standard of Light," which consists of an U-piece of pure sheet platinum cut accurately to fixed dimensions. When a sufficiently strong electric current is made to pass through the platinum, it becomes white-hot and emits a brilliant light. The author showed experimentally how the intensity of this light could be varied,—i. e., the magnitude of the standard altered,—by varying the currents, and also that when the current was kept constant, the light was rigorously constant also. In November, he communicated a paper, in which he described a method



of using an insignificant fraction of the main current, produced by a dynamo-electric machine, for Telegraph purposes. The method in question is simple and ingenious. A strong current is produced through a comparatively small resistance by a dynamo-electric machine, which is an arrangement for converting mechanical power direct into magnetism and electricity, according to the laws of Faraday's Magneto-induction. This strong main current, while available for any kind of useful work, can, without perceptible loss, supply the very weak current required for signalling. Mr. Schwendler made a number of experiments to test the practicability of his new method of supplying signalling currents, and the results of these experiments he communicated to the Society in November, 1880.

Mr. Brough, who has been mentioned above in connection with the "Earth-currents" Committee, published several interesting papers in the *Proceedings*.

R. S. Brough.  
1877.

### § 7.—*Photography, Process of Coining, &c.*

Major Waterhouse\* of the Survey of India, who has for many years been a most zealous member of the Society, was appointed Superintendent of the Photographic Branch of the Surveyor-General's Office in 1866. He was associated with Colonel Tennant in observing the transit of Venus in 1874, and took above a hundred photographs of the solar disc while the planet was on it, besides five showing the egress of the planet from the sun. He contributed a paper containing the results of the photographic operations in connection with the observations of the transit of Venus at Rūnki, 9th December, 1874, printed

J. Waterhouse  
1874—

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\* Major Waterhouse was General Secretary of the Society from 1872 to 1875.



an account of some experiments made by the author to ascertain the cause and extent of the apparent refining that takes place when an alligation containing fine silver and copper is melted, and of the further changes in the alloy during the processes of coining. In the following year, Colonel Tennant described a method, by which a portion of the weights of an English bullion set were compared and their values found in terms of a Standard Ounce, known in terms of the English Standard Pound. Colonel Tennant gave full details showing how the comparison and valuation can be systematically carried out in some cases, and how an exceptional case can be dealt with. Tables are given in an Appendix for reducing the results of weighings in air to what they would have been in a vacuum, and for determining specific gravities. The author also compares the advantages of several systems of weights, and discusses the best value of a standard weight, and describes the results he has arrived at, and by which he has been guided, in making a set of standard Tolah weights for the Mint.

### § 8.—*Mathematical Sciences of the Hindus.*

The Mathematical Sciences had been cultivated by the Hindus from very remote times. But the history of the progress and civilization of that nation closes with the end of the twelfth century. Every work that has the stamp of originality had been written before the close of that century. Bháskaráchárya, the last of the noble band of mathematicians which it is the glory of this country to have produced, completed his great work on Algebra, Arithmetic, and Mensuration about A.D. 1150. Since then, the degenerated Hindus, who, for want of better occupation, employed, or rather wasted, their time in inventing an infinity of absurd, frivolous stories about gods and goddesses, demigods and

*astronomers*, forgot the principles of their sciences which were thus reduced to mere arts practised by ignorant astrologers and needy physicians to earn a living. To rescue those sciences from oblivion was one of the noble objects which the Asiatic Society set itself from its very foundation to accomplish. The task was by no means an easy one. Though ample stipends were offered by Sir W. Jones to any Hindu astronomer who could name in Sanscrit all the constellations which he would point out and to any Hindu physician who could bring him all the plants mentioned in Sanscrit books, he was assured by the Brahmins whom he had commissioned to search for such instructors, that no *Pandit* in Bengal even pretended to possess the knowledge which he required.

A set of Hindu Astronomical Tables had been taken to Europe from Sam as early as 1687 by a Frenchman named LaLoubère. They passed from hand to hand as a sort of scientific curiosity until they were explained by Cassini, one of the most eminent astronomers of his age. Two more sets of tables were sent from Southern India by the Jesuit Missionaries about the middle of the last century. The best known and most important set, however, was one from Travancor on the Coromandel Coast, which was taken to Europe by M. Le Gentil, who visited India for the purpose of observing the transit of Venus in 1769. He communicated an account of these tables and of the astronomy of the Hindus to the French Academy in 1773. The subject was then most zealously taken up by M. Bailly one of the most distinguished mathematicians of his day, the contemporary of Laplace, Lagrange, and D'Alembert. He published his "History of Astronomy from its origin to the establishment of the Alexandrian Schools" in 1775, in which he stoutly maintained the antiquity and excel-

lence of the Hindu Astronomy. His great work, however, was his "History of Indian Astronomy," in which his views are more clearly expounded, and the subject treated more fully and in greater detail. That work appeared in 1787, a year before the publication of the first number of the *Asiatic Researches*.

The second volume of the *Researches* contains a paper by S DAVIS and Sir W. Jones Mr Samuel Davis, of Bhágalpur, on the "Astronomical Computations of the Hindus," and another by Sir William Jones "On the Antiquity of the Hindu Zodiac." Mr. Davis had procured a copy of the *Súryasiddhánta*, one of the most ancient of Indian astronomical works, and translated portions of it bearing upon the prediction of eclipses and other phenomena. Sir William Jones undertook in his paper to prove that the Indian Zodiac was not borrowed mediately or directly from the Greeks; and that since the solar division of it in India is the same in substance as that used in Greece, both the Greeks and Hindus received it from an older nation, who first gave names to the luminaries of heaven.

Reuben Burrow, whose mathematical work has been noticed at the commencement of this chapter, was the first to attempt a translation of the Indian works on Algebra and Arithmetic. R Burrow. There is a very interesting article by him entitled "A Proof that the Hindus had the Binomial Theorem," in which he adduces evidence to show that the Hindus had a differential method similar to Newton's. The earliest notices of Indian Algebra and Arithmetic which reached Europe were from Burrow. He made a good collection of mathematical manuscripts, which he bequeathed to his friend, Mr. Dalby, of the Royal Military College, who communicated them to those interested in the subject in 1800.

In the second volume of the *Researches* is published an advertisement calling upon the learned Societies of Europe to transmit to the Secretary to the Asiatic Society "A Collection of short and precise queries on every branch of Asiatic History, Natural and Civil, on the Philosophy, Mathematics, Antiquities, and Polite Literature of Asia, and on eastern Arts, both liberal and mechanic; since it is hoped that accurate answers may in due time be procured to any questions that can be proposed on those subjects, which must in all events be curious and interesting, and may prove in the highest degree beneficial to mankind "

This advertisement led Professor Playfair, of Edinburgh,  
J Playfair  
1795 to submit a few questions and remarks relating to the Astronomy of the Hindus, in 1792. Two years previously he had read a paper before the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in which he declared himself a convert to M Bailly's views with regard to the antiquity of the Hindu Astronomy. Notwithstanding the "most profound respect" he had for the "learning and abilities of the author of the *Astronomie Indienne*," he "entered on the study of that work, not without a portion of scepticism, which whatever is new and extraordinary in science ought to excite, and set about verifying the calculations and examining the reasoning in it with the most scrupulous attention. The result was an entire conviction of the accuracy of the one and of the solidity of the other." In concluding his queries (published in the fourth volume of the *Researches*), Professor Playfair declares himself so deeply interested in the subject of Indian Astronomy, that he "would not lose even the feeblest ray of a light which, without the exertions of the Asiatic Society, must perish for ever "

In 1797, Mr. J. Bentley, one of the best mathematicians of the time in India, contributed some remarks "On the principal æras and dates of the ancient Hindus" In a subsequent paper "On the antiquity of the *Sûryasiddhânta*," published in the sixth volume of the *Researches*, he made instructive observations on the principles of the Hindu Astronomy and on the manner in which their cycles were formed, and exhibited useful formulæ showing their application in discovering the actual position of the heavenly bodies He, however, dissented from Bailly and Playfair, and threw doubts on the antiquity of Indian Astronomy. This led to a severe critique in the *Edinburgh Review*, and Bentley replied in the pages of the *Asiatic Researches* (Vol. VIII).

HENRY T. COLEBROOKE, perhaps the most cautious and erudite orientalist that England has produced, who combined in himself the double qualifications of a sound mathematician and a thorough oriental scholar, and who for some time occupied the presidential chair of this Society, now entered the field with a paper on the "Indian and Arabian divisions of the Zodiac," in which he maintains that the Arabs had adopted, though with slight variations, a division of the zodiac familiar to the Hindus. In the twelfth volume of the *Researches* appeared his Treatise "On the Notion of the Hindu Astronomers concerning the precession of the equinoxes and motions of the planets." These articles by Colebrooke are, according to Principal Mill, "the best correction to the extravagant notions of Indian antiquity, which the preceding speculations of Bailly and others had deduced from imperfect notices of the Hindu observations, and also to the crude and fanciful speculations with which Mr Bentley had unhappily adulterated some valuable and interesting calculations"

J Bentley  
1797—1805

H T Colebrooke  
1807—1816





## CHAPTER II.

## GEOLOGY.\*

[§ 1. Preliminary. § 2. Stratigraphical Geology (a) Southern India — Voysey — Benza — Malcolmson — Newbold (b) Northern India — Voysey — Franklin — Coulthard — Hardie — Everest — Finnis — Spilsbury — Adam — Sherwill — Homfray — Oldham — Haughton — Hislop — Blanford — Godwin-Austen (c) The Himalayas — Herbert — Falconer — Everest — Hutton — Hay — Medlicott — Godwin-Austen — Verchère. (d) The Salt Range — Fleming — Theobald. (e) Burma, the Islands in the Bay of Bengal, &c. — Low — Blanford — Ball § 3. Dynamical Geology (a) Volcanoes and Earthquakes — Colebrooke — Halstead — Baird Smith — Asam Government. (b) Glacial Action — Hodgson — Batten and Manson — Weller — Madden — Strachey — Godwin-Austen — Blanford — Campbell — Medlicott. (c) River-Action — Everest — Piddington.]

§ 1 — *Preliminary.*

It was in 1790, six years after the foundation of the Asiatic Society, that Werner propounded, to his pupils at Freiburg, his doctrine of 'Formations.' In the same year, William Smith, an English surveyor, published a "Tabular View of the British Strata," in which he proposed a classification of the secondary formations in the West of England, each marked by its peculiar organic remains. A most animated controversy was then being carried on in Europe between the followers of Werner (Neptunists) and those of Hutton (Vulcanists). "The two parties," in the words of Sir C. Lyell, "had been less occupied in searching for truth than for such arguments as might strengthen their own cause or serve to annoy their antagonists." And it

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\* See Indices, pp xxvi—xlii, and lxxviii—xc.



§ 2 — *Stratigraphical Geology.*(a) *Southern India*

Dr Voysey was the father of Indian Geology. In 1818, H W Voysey he was attached as Surgeon and Geologist to the Surveying Party of Colonel Lambton. It reflects no little credit on the Honorable East India Company that they were only a few years behind the most enlightened Governments of Europe in undertaking the measurement of an arc and starting a geological survey.

Colonel Lambton and Dr Voysey were both very talented men. It is a remarkable coincidence, that not only did these pioneers of Indian Science work together, each in his own department, with unsurpassed energy and ability, but that they died in the same year, under strangely similar circumstances, both performing their onerous duties almost literally to the last moments of their lives.†

Voysey's first contribution was on the "Diamond Mines of Southern India." Though published in the fifteenth volume of the *Researches*, dated 1825, it was probably written about 1820. This paper contains, besides an account of the mode of occurrence of the diamond, a geological sketch of the Nalla Mala Mountains, situated between Kambham in the Cadapa district and Amrábád, a town in the province of Háidarábád, north of the Krishná. It has been asserted that he belonged to the Wernerian school. But he does not appear from his writings to have belonged to either school. With

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\* See note above, p. 2

† The last words of the last journal kept by Dr Voysey, and published in the thirteenth volume of the Society's *Journal* are "Rocks of Colhapal. The same—micaschist with quartz veins. One specimen of quartz reminded me of axinite." After writing this he caught a fever, and was found dead in his *palki* on its arrival at Howrah.

regard to the geological structure of the Nalla Mala Mountains, he says "It is difficult to understand, and it cannot be easily explained by either the Huttonian or Wernerian theories" Owing to the predominance of clay slate, he applied the name of "Clay Slate Formation" to the rocks of which the mountains are composed He gives an account of the mining operations as carried on in his time, and remarks upon the poverty of the miners who were all *Dhers* or outcasts

After Dr Voysey's death in 1823, his numerous manuscripts came into the possession of the Asiatic Society, and were placed in the hands of some of the members of the Physical Committee, in order to be digested for publication, which was delayed, however, owing to an unseemly opposition from a professional artist, who appears to have given Dr Voysey a few hints in sketching "Dr Voysey's valuable collection," wrote this artist, "his writings, and my drawings have been seized upon by some calling themselves the Asiatic Society; they are about to publish a selection from his writings without consulting his friends, or making them any compensation" The Asiatic Society succeeded in getting over this difficulty; and Dr Voysey's Reports on the Geology of Háidarábád, written between 1819 and 1820, were given to the world in 1833, ten years after his death

Dr P M Benza, Surgeon to the Governor of Madras,  
 P M Benza  
 1835 contributed a paper on the Geology of the Nílgris, which may be considered as the southern termination of the Western Gháts, here terminating in almost vertical precipices, and which rise abruptly from the table-land of Maisú in stupendous cliffs He considers the granitoid rocks, which form the highest hills of the group, as intrusive, and notices the basaltic dykes The

article, however, is mainly mineralogical, describing specially the different varieties of iron ore in the locality. Accompanying the paper is a note on some specimens from the Northern Circars, which Dr. Benza had sent to the Museum of the Asiatic Society. Amongst these was the highly fossiliferous Intertrappean Limestone (with oysters and other shells) of Rájamahendrí, now so well known.\*

Dr. Malcolmson, also of the Madras Medical Service, who

T G Malcolmson.  
1833—36.

was one of the earliest and ablest contributors on the Geology of India, and especially on that most interesting formation. the Deccan Trap, discovered, about 1832, fossiliferous Intertrappean Limestone in the Nirmal Hills, north of the Godávári, an account of which he furnished in a letter to the Society.† He notices the remarkable alteration of the limestone by the bursting through it of basaltic dykes. But the most remarkable part of the letter is his account of the Lonar Lake, which he had examined some years previously. He describes it as a "vast crater nearly 500 feet deep, and four or five miles round on the upper margin;" the water, "green and bitter, supersaturated with alkaline carbonate, and containing *silex* in solution, as well as some iron." Dr. Malcolmson had, in May 1833, forwarded to the Society's Museum a selection of geological specimens collected in May, 1833, between Hádarábád and Nágpur. In 1836, he furnished some notes‡ on these, in which he treats of the Geology of the metamorphic country between Hádarábád and the

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\* This is the first notice of the limestone in question, that published in the *Madras Journal of Literature and Science* appeared two years later, in 1835.

† *Journal*, Vol. III (1834), p. 302.

‡ These notes were reprinted in *Madras Journal of Literature and Science*, Vol. IV (1836).



both problems of considerable interest in Indian Geology. He was the first to detect the occurrence of manganese veins in the latter. Brongniart, on the authority of M. de Luc, had spread the idea in Europe, that the rounded blocks of granite around, and in the vicinity of, Haidarabad (Deccan) were truly erratic boulders. Captain Newbold, however, after a long and careful survey, the results of which were communicated to the Society in 1845, came to the conclusion that the blocks in question are *in situ* (since they invariably rest upon, or near, a granite of the same petrological character) and that they owe their globular and rounded form to concentric exfoliation. He did observe certain marks and furrows, but these could not be referred to glacier-action; and he found nothing which could not be explained by the action of existing subaerial agencies. In his Geological Notes on the South Mahratta country, he dwells on the Geology of the Sitádinga Hills, the plain of Bagulcata, the country between Kaladgi and the Falls of Gokak, and the tract between these Falls and Belgaum along the western slope of the Gháts. He then gives the geographical position and extent of the various rocks of the South Mahratta country, the extent of the Limestone and Sandstone rocks, the distribution of the Laterite, Kankar, Regur, &c, and winds up his valuable discourse with a classification of the rocks of the South Mahratta country as follows :—

Regur	}	1st Group [Tertiary].
Old kankar		
Laterite		
Laterite sandstone		
Overlying trap		
Basaltic greenstone	}	2nd Group [Devonian or Carboniferous ?]
Granite		
Sandstone		

Dialtic green-stone	}	3rd Group [Silurian or Cambrian ?]
Granite		
Hypogene schist		

The *Journals* for 1815 and the two succeeding years contain a number of other important geological contributions from the pen of Newbold. Of these some are mainly Mineralogical, and contain most accurate accounts of the gold tracts and of the mines of various other minerals in Southern India. "It may be said with truth," says Mr King,\* of Captain Newbold's researches, "that each paper is about the most clear and careful description of whatever it was intended to illustrate that has been given by any of the explorers of Southern India, whatever errors he has fallen into are almost all due to his not having been able to make a thorough investigation of the rocks .... In fact, it may almost be affirmed of Captain Newbold, that the only work incorrectly done, or not done at all, was such as could alone be accurately determined and settled by the continuous and systematic working of men trained to such investigations. He examined the rocks quite as closely for organic remains as we have done, and with equal non-success, lingering only over some peculiar minute spherical and oval bodies in an oolitic silicious rock, and coming to the same doubtful conclusions, as we have been compelled to do, regarding their organic or inorganic structure"†

### (b) Northern India

The fifteenth volume of the *Researches* contains a paper by Dr Voysey on the Building Stones of Agrá, in which the sandstone, of which

W. Voysey  
1821

\* Memoirs Geological Survey of India, Vol VIII, pt 1, p 9

† The other contributors on the Geology of Southern India were Drs H Walker and A Christie (1811), and Messrs Schlagintweit (1855-56)



that city is built, is referred by him to the Old Red Sandstone formation. He regarded it as highly probable that the sandstone forms part of the great Sandstone Formation of India, the north-eastern boundary of which is formed by Fatepur-Sikri, Kalinjar, Machkund, Dholpur, Gwalior, Chunár, and Rotasgar—a most happy conjecture the correctness of which has since been well established by the officers of the Geological Survey.

In the eighteenth volume of the Society's *Transactions*,\* which, as observed before, is chiefly devoted to Geology, appear several long and elaborate Memoirs on the Geology of Central India.

Captain James Franklin explored a large portion of Central India, and described the great Sandstone Formation, now known as the Vindhyan, identified by him (though wrongly) with the New Red Sandstone of England. He also notices the great Triap Formation, which covers such an extensive area in the Deccan and on the Málwa plateau, and forms one of the most striking features in the Geology of India. This formation, as represented in the district of Ságár, is dealt with in detail by Captain C Coulthard, who describes its general appearance, petrology, &c.

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\* It opens with some "General Observations on the Geology of India" by James Calder, Vice-President of the Physical Committee. He pays a fitting tribute to the memory of Voysey: "In the field of Geology," says he, "some steady progress has been made, which the superintending care of the lamented Voysey promised to ripen into a rich harvest, fatally, however for so, as this ardent philosophic enquirer was a martyr in the cause to which he was devoted." [Mr. Calder's paper gives a succinct review of the information then available about the Geology of India and Ceylon. The distribution of that "granite formation," the Laterite is carefully noted as well as the conifold occupiers, both east of the River Damuda.]

Mr J. Hardie, of the Bengal Medical Service, also read a paper on the Geology of Central India, which was published in the second part of the eighteenth volume of the *Researches*. He classifies the rocks described by him under the heads of (1) Granite; (2) Gneiss; (3) Quartz rocks; (4) Micaceous Schist, (5) Chlorite Schist, (6) Talcoose Schist, &c. The paper is chiefly mineralogical. Mr Hardie also contributed some geological remarks which he made in a march from Barodá to Udayapur.

The Rev R Everest, whose observations on the quantity of earthy matter brought down by the Ganges we shall have occasion to notice later on, and whose physical researches have been reviewed in the preceding chapter, described the Sandstone and Triap Formations west of Mirzápur between Ságar and the Jamuná.

Lieutenant Gunnis brought before the Society, in 1829, a very fair Geological description of the country between Nágpur and Hoshangábád which was published in the third volume of the *Journal*. In it he divides the country into four parts according to the lithology of the rocks met with. He was followed by Dr. Spilsbury,\* of the Bengal Medical Service, who (1833) discovered important Mam-

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\* The following is an extract from a Resolution passed at a meeting of the Council (see *Journal*, Vol XXIV, 1855, p 171) —“ Dr Spilsbury's merits were not merely those of a collector of fossils, in most cases he accurately defined and identified his specimens, and it was probably the want of necessary means of reference and comparison in a remote locality, and the innate modesty of his character that prevented Dr Spilsbury from giving to the world a full and complete account of his researches in a connected form. Dr Spilsbury's contributions have further been marked by as great liberality as zeal in behalf of the

malian remains in the Narmadá Valley. He contributed two Geological papers, one in 1834, and the other a few years later. In the former, the Valley of the Narmadá, from Tendukheri to the table-land of Páncmári, is described; while the latter gives the results of Dr. Spilsbury's observations on the country between Brimhan Ghát to Amarkantak, the holy source of the Narmadá. Dr. J. Adam, also of the Bengal Medical Service, wrote on the Geology of the country previously traversed by Captain Franklin. The formations occurring there are classified by him into Granite, Trap, Sandstone, and Gravel; in the last of which the diamond-mines are stated to be situated.

J Adam  
1842

Captain W. S Sherwill, of the Revenue Survey, contributed important geological articles on the districts of Sháhábád and Behár, and gave, in the twentieth volume of the *Journal*, a highly interesting sketch of the Rájmahál Hills, containing valuable geological information. He was the first to examine the structure of these hills; and the conclusions arrived at by him were so sound, that they have been but little shaken by the subsequent detailed examination of the ground by the officers of the Geological Survey of India. The true position of the Sandstones as regards the Volcanic Rocks was pointed out by him. He also discovered the coal of the Chuparbhitá Pass, and described the known seams with accuracy.

W S Sherwill.  
1846—51.

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Society The Council consider that they have served alike to enrich the Society's Museum and to advance the progress of science. On these grounds, they are of opinion that Dr Spilsbury is entitled to a public recognition of his services, and the Council propose that a subscription be entered upon among the members and the friends of science for a portrait of Spilsbury to be hung up in the Society's rooms."

Mr. J. Homfray's\* description of the Dámudá Valley is the first published account of the Rám-ganj field. It is accompanied by a map, in which the boundaries are laid down with tolerable accuracy. Mr Homfray shows the absurdity of the view which then prevailed as to the former connection of the Dámudá and Sylhet coal areas.

Dr Oldham, who was five times elected President of the Society, and whose bust graces their Meeting Hall, was a most active and zealous member of the Society. He had, as Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, established a wide reputation in Europe before his arrival in India in 1851. He created the present Geological Survey of India. During the working season of 1852-53, he examined the Ráymahál Hills, and the results of his observations were communicated to the Society by the Government of Bengal. He came to the important conclusion, that the entire group of the coal-producing rocks of Bengal Proper (including the Dámudá, Ajaya, Rámgar, and Karharbári Coalfields) are quite distinct from the true coal measures of England, and belong to the same great geological era as the Oolites of Europe,—an opinion which, afterwards, as we shall presently see, he found reason to change. At the May meeting of the Society in 1856 Dr Oldham gave a résumé of the valuable researches of his talented and energetic colleagues in Central India. He proposed the name of 'Vindhyan' for the great Sandstone Formation of Northern and Central India, which had been referred by Voysey, and subsequently by Sherwill and others,

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\* Mr Homfray was manager of Messrs Jessop and Co's Colliery at Náráyan-puri. In 1837 he was deputed by the Coal Committee to report on the coalfields of Palamow.

to the Old Red Sandstone ;\* by Franklin, to the New Red Sandstone ; and by Dr Carter, of Bombay, to the Jurassic Epoch, along with the coal-bearing strata of Bengal. He pointed out that, owing to the absence of organic remains, the Vindhyan could not be safely correlated to any of the great European formations, but that they might be Cambrian. Reposing unconformably upon the Vindhyan was a vast thickness of sandstones and shales with numerous plant fossils, which enabled Dr. Oldham to establish their identity with the coal groups of Bardwán, of Házáribág, and of Catak, which had previously been shown to be of Jurassic age. Resting unconformably upon these, there was found another series of very thick, often ferruginous sandstones, forming the Páncmári scarp, for which he proposed the name of *Mahádevas*. With regard to the Intertrappean beds, facts had been adduced by the Survey to show that their hardening was due to the subsequent overflow of igneous matter, and not to intrusive sheets of basalt, as advocated by some. He concluded his brief but pregnant remarks with a classification of the Rock Groups, which has since been but little altered. In May 1861, on the occasion of laying before the Society a collection of rocks and fossils from the vicinity of Sydney, presented by Sir William Denison, Dr. Oldham made some interesting remarks on the age of the Indian coal-bearing strata, which had been regarded by Hislop, Carter, and a number of other Geologists, as *all* referable to the Jurassic or Oolitic beds, without admitting of any separation into distinct groups or systems. He contended against this erroneous view, and brought forward the important results of the valuable researches of Mr W T. Blanford. Dr. Oldham

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\* See *ante*, p 34

held out a prospect, that future investigations would establish an accurate parallelism between the rocks of India and those of Australia, portions of which were, even then, known to be synchronous ; and “ that, while in all probability it would be found that, starting from the common datum line of the coal-bearing rocks in either land, the sequence upwards would be established from Indian researches in this country, apparently supplying links wanting in Australia ; on the other hand, we should be enabled to supplement the evidence of the succession downwards (which is deficient in India), by a reference to Australian Groups ” No marine deposits in this country, of the same age as the ‘ Wollongong ’ Sandstones of Australia, had as yet been discovered, but he found nothing in the plant remains of the Talchur beds which would “ militate against their being of the same general age ”

Previous to 1857, rocks of the Cretaceous Epoch were known to occur in India only between  
R H Keatinge and  
T Oldham  
1858
Tichinopoly and Pondichery Dr Carter, in his “ Geology of India,” had ingeniously suggested, that the beautiful limestone, well known as the “ coralline limestone,” used at the now ruined city of Mádu, formerly the capital of Malwa, was derived from near Bág though he had wrongly assigned it to the Oolitic age Dr Oldham, during his tour in the Naimadá Valley in 1856, meeting Captain (now Colonel) Keatinge, Political Agent at Mandlesar, then the capital of British Nimar and a military cantonment, strongly urged him to visit the locality In 1856-57, Colonel Keatinge collected a large number of fossils, which established the Cretaceous age of the coralline limestone beyond question These were sent to the Museum of the Geological Survey, along with some notes, which were communicated to the Society by Dr Oldham

Colonel Haughton submitted his geological investigations in Singbhúm and the adjacent country in 1854. He was the first to detect the existence of two subdivisions of the Metamorphics, which he describes as (i) Gneiss passing in some places into Granite, and (ii) Schists, Slates, &c.

I O Haughton,  
1854

The Rev. S. Hislop,\* the well-known Missionary of Nágpur, contributed a short but well-digested paper on the age of the coal measures of Bengal and Central India, which he referred to the Oolite of Europe.

S Hislop  
1855.

Mr Blanford, who joined the Geological Survey in October, 1855, and has lately retired after a distinguished service of twenty-seven years, was President of the Society in 1878 and 1879, and is now an Honorary Member.† He was engaged in the survey of the Rániganj coalfield from 1858 to 1860, the results of which he laid before the Society. He arrived at the following classification in descending order correlative of the Rániganj beds :—

W T Blanford.  
1860

	Raniganj	Rajmahal	Orisa	Narmada Valley	Nágpur
1			Mahadevas	Mahadevas, Lametas	Mahadevas
2		Rajmahals			
3	Panchet { Upper Lower	Conglomerates }		{ Upper Damudas of Jabalpur }	{ Maigh Shals }
4	Damuda { Raniganj Series Ironstones L Damudas	L. Damudas	L Damudas	L Damudas.	Damudas
5	Talchurs Talchurs		Talchurs	Talchurs	

\* He arrived at Nágpur early in 1845. He was accidentally drowned in crossing a river.

† The Wollaston gold medal, one of the earliest recipients of which was the distinguished Falconer, has this year been awarded to Mr Blanford by the Geological Society of London.

Colonel Godwin-Austen, late of the Topographical Survey, the well-known naturalist, described the geology and physical features of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills. The oldest rocks, the Metamorphic, were found by him overlaid by sandstones with seams of valuable coal, which had previously been referred to the Cretaceous period by Oldham. These sandstones are followed by Nummulitic limestones, succeeded at places by highly fossiliferous rocks of still younger age, the equivalents probably of the Siválík. The Lakadong Nummulitic coal is specially noted.

(c) *The Himálayas*

Captain Herbert was among the foremost pioneers of Indian Geology. "As a man of great talent and of sound and extensive scientific culture, he may stand with Captain Newbold, who did so much for the Geology of Southern India. The Mineralogical Survey of the Himálayan districts was one of the earliest attempts at a geological map of a considerable area made officially in India. The work was entrusted to Captain Herbert by the Marquis of Hastings. Captain Herbert\* does not assume any pretensions to authority. He tells us very plainly that he made up his Geology for the occasion, but it is plain, too, from his observations and reflections, that he thoroughly mastered his authors. His suggestions in correction of current views are often very judicious, and display a truly scientific turn of mind. . . . He divides all the rocks of the mountains into two great 'primary formations'—one for the Gneiss occupying the central region, and one for the Micace-

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\* Captain Herbert's Report was published in the eleventh volume of the *Journal*



ous, Chloritic, Hornblendic, and Argillaceous Schists, to which also he joins the limestones. He makes a third zone of the narrow strip of secondary rocks, mostly, if not entirely, the Newer Red, or Saliferous Sandstone.”\*

Dr. Falconer† commenced his geological explorations among the Siválík Hills in 1831, a year after his arrival in India. Cautley and Herbert had found lignite in the sandstones which compose them. Captain Herbert, in his paper on the “Occurrence of Coal in the Indo-Gangetic Mountains,” published in the sixteenth volume of the *Researches*, considered these sandstones as forming part of an extensive secondary formation. It was in 1831 that Falconer inferred the Tertiary age of the Siválík formation, and placed it on the horizon of the *Molasse* of Switzerland. Three years later, Dr. Falconer contributed to the third volume of the *Journal* a brief account‡ of the geology and physical features of the Range, accompanied by a rough section exhibiting its relation to the Himálayas.

Dr. Gerard, whose geographical contributions will be noticed later on, was the first discoverer of fossil shells in the Spiti Valley. The Rev R. Everest contributed a memorandum on them in 1833; and two years later brought before the Society some observations which he had made on a journey from Masuri to Gangautri. He mentions the following formations in ascending order —

(1) Granite, (2) Gneiss and Mica Slate, (3) Talcose

\* Mr H B Medlicott ‘On the Geology of the Himálayan Districts,’ in the “N W P Gazetteer,” pp 112-113

† For Falconer’s Palæontological Researches see *infra*, Chap III, p 78

‡ The article is on the aptitude of the Himálayan Range for the culture of the tea plant, and will be found in the ‘Index,’ under Section VII

Gneiss and Tale-Slate, (4) Clay Slate; (5) Masur Limestone, and (6) Quartz Rock

Towards the close of 1837 Lieutenant Hutton proposed to the Society to undertake with their patronage and assistance an expedition into the Spiti Valley in order to follow up the discoveries of Dr Gerard by a geological examination of the country. The Society warmly approved of the idea, and sanctioned substantial pecuniary assistance. A long and interesting account of his trip by Lieutenant Hutton was the result.

Lieutenant Hutton was followed by Captain Hay, whose Report on the Spiti Valley contains some note-worthy geological observations, though they are vitiated, like those of Hutton, by ill-founded theories and hasty generalisations.

Mr H. B. Medlicott, Superintendent of the Geological Survey and twice President of the Society has long been a most active and earnest member. Formerly of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, he joined the Geological Survey of India in March 1854. In 1857, he began his examination of the Himalayas, and, in March, 1861, communicated to the Society an abstract of some of the principal results of that highly important survey, which was concluded in the following year (1862).

Captain R. Strachey, in his account to the Geological Society in 1851, had left the massive sandstone at the base of the mountains where Herbert had placed it in the Silurian period of the secondary era. Major Vicary's discovery of nummulitic fossils at Subathu had been announced in 1854. Falconer and Cautley had also paid almost exclusive attention to fossils, so much so that their description left it to be inferred that the fossiliferous beds of Nahan

overlay those of the outer hills. Mr. Medlicott reduced all this confusion to a more intelligible strategraphical order. He showed that the so-called saliferous sandstone of Kumáun corresponds at least in part to the Náhan sandstone, and that there is a great physical break between this latter and the newer Siválík rocks of the outer hills, and also 'between it and the older Tertiary rocks of Upper Sirmur (Vicary's Nummulitics).

Colonel Godwin-Austen, having heard of a field of coal  
 Godwin-Austen. near Santrabári, Bhután Duárs, went to  
 1865 the spot The geological results of the  
 trip are contained in a paper published in the *Journal* for 1865. He found some lignite in sandstones overlaid unconformably by horizontally bedded conglomerates, but no coal. Two years later, he read a paper on the geological features of the country near the foot of the hills in the Western Bhután Duárs, in which he announced the discovery in the bed of the Diama River, a short distance west of Buxá, of the fossil molar of an elephant probably washed out of the conglomerates just mentioned. He expressed his opinion that "the elevatory force that has raised the Tertiary sandstones into the position they are found in along the whole base of the Himálayas, often to a height of nearly 3,000 feet above the sea, has here been extended in a less degree, and that they are to be sought for yet below the upper conglomerates, more or less deeply seated, at a short distance from the base of the hills."

In 1875, Colonel Godwin-Austen contributed a paper on the Geology of the Daffá Hills, in which he brought to notice certain beds on the Dikrang River, considered by him to be the representative of the Dámudá Series. Some recent river-terraces are described, as well as the alluvium of the Bisnáth plain

Dr A. M. Verchère, of the Bengal Medical Service, contributed a voluminous paper on the Geology of Káshmir, the Western Himálaya, and the Afghan Mountains. Previous to the Carboniferous, and probably during the Silurian Epoch, there existed, according to Dr. Verchère, in the centre of Asia (which was then probably a sea uniting the Arctic to the Indian Ocean), linear volcanoes, arranged in a direction parallel to the present general direction of the Himálaya, i. e., N W. and S E. Other linear volcanoes were directed from the N E to the S W, where the Afghan Mountains now stand. Dr Verchère traces the geological history of the area described by him through the Mesozoic and Tertiary Epochs to prehistoric times. The fossils collected by him were examined by M. E. de Verneuil, the distinguished Palæontologist, who contributed a note on them.

#### (d) *The Salt Range*

Sir Alexander Burnes, in his paper on the Salt Mines of the Punjab, had given a few geological details, as had also Dr. Jameson, who was for some time Curator of the Society, in his report on the Indus Inundation, published in the twelfth volume of the *Journal*. Some mineralogical information is also contained in the itinerary papers by Agha Abbas of Shíráz, and Munshi Mohan Lál, both of whom explored under the patronage of Major Leech. But the geology of the Salt Range was first properly and systematically studied by Dr A. Fleming, of the Bengal Medical Service. In his first Memoir he describes the height and course of the Salt Range, the red sandstone conglomerate last seen on the Indus below Kálíabág and supposed (though wrongly) to underlie the saliferous mud with gypsum and rock-salt, the variegated sand-

A. M. Verchère  
1866-67

A. Fleming  
1848-53

stones which come above the marl, superposed by fossiliferous calcareous strata. Above these last named beds he noticed a yellow marl followed by bituminous shales including seams of coal. The highest strata noted by him were those of a compact, fine-grained fossiliferous limestone with flints, described by him as Nummulitic. He gives mineralogical details about Gold, Coal, Iron-ore, Petroleum, Sulphur, Lead-ore, and Salt. In an Appendix, the alum manufacture of Kálibág is described in detail. Dr Fleming's second contribution consisted of the diary kept by him of his trip to Pind Dádan Khan and the Salt Range, which was communicated by Sir H. M. Elliot, Secretary to the Government of India. In 1851, Dr. Fleming was placed in charge of the Geological Survey of the Salt Range, and had Mr W. Purdon, an able engineer, and Mr W. Theobald, late of the Geological Survey of India, as his assistants. His long and elaborate report published in the twenty-second volume of the *Journal* is almost exhaustive. The map which accompanies it, the first of the Salt Range executed from a regular survey, was prepared by the able assistants just mentioned. The Memoir opens with a description of the general physical features of the Salt Range. It then goes on to describe the various formations, in the following stratigraphical order :—

Devonian	{	a	Red Marl, with Gypsum and Rocksalt
		b	Lower Red Sandstone and Grits
		c	Micaceous Sandstone and Shales.
		d.	Variegated Sandstones, Grits, &c
Carboniferous ...	{	a	Lower Limestone, Calcareous Sandstone, and Shales.
		b	Grey Sandstone and Shales
		c.	Upper Limestone (sometimes Magnesian)
Oolitic	{	a	Quartzose Sandstones, Grits, and Shales.
		b.	Cherty Limestones, with Shales
		c	Belemnite Sandstone and Shales.

Eocene	{	Calcareous Sandstone, Nummulitic Limestone,
	}	Marls and Alum Shales, with Lignite.
Miocene (?)	.	Sandstones, Argillaceous Grits, Conglomerates, &c
Recent	..	Alluvium

Mr Theobald, late Deputy Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, began his career as assistant to Dr McClelland in 1848, and retired from the service last year. He explored the Salt Range along with Dr Fleming, and brought together his observations before the Society in 1854. The Physiography of the Range is minutely described, and the stratigraphical geology of the area is treated of in the following order. —

<i>Formations</i>	<i>Thickness in feet.</i>
1. Red Marl and Gypsum with Rocksalt	1,500
2. Dark Red Sandstone	700
3. Dark Arenaceous Shales	250
4. Cuprifrons Purple Shales, &c	400
5. Sandstone, with Conglomerate Bands	700
6. Productus Limestone	1,100
7. Spotted Shales and Sandstones	600
8. Carbonaceous Shales, &c	80
9. Nummulitic Limestone	1,100
10. Nummulitic Limestone, Conglomerate, Ossiferous Sands, &c	10,000

(c) *Burma, Malay Peninsula, and the Islands in the Bay of Bengal*

Captain J Low, of the Madras Army, contributed "Some Observations on the Geological Appearances and General Feature of portions of the Malayan Peninsula, &c;" in which the geology of Perak, Penang, Tenasserim, Tavoy and Martaban is described.

Mr. Blanford, in 1862, gave an account of the extinct volcano of Puppadoung in Upper Burma, in which he clearly established the fact of an active volcano having existed in Pegu during the deposition of beds of comparatively recent geological date

W T Blanford  
1862.

Professor Ball, late of the Geological Survey of India, who has been one of the most industrious members of the Society, and who acted as treasurer in 1881, has made numerous contributions to Natural History, among which are those on the Geology of the Nicobar Islands and of the vicinity of Port Blair. Dr Hochstetter had, in the "Records of the Geological Survey of India," given an account of the Nicobars; and Mr Ball's observations were chiefly confirmatory of those held by that distinguished geologist. The rocks which, in the Nicobars, determine the character of the soil were pointed out by Mr Ball to be :—

V Ball.  
1870

1. Coral rocks.
2. Magnesian Claystone, with Conglomerates.
3. Gabbro and Serpentine rocks.

In his second paper Mr. Ball describes the geological features of Ross Island, the southern coast-line of Port Blair, Mount Harriet, Viper Island, islands north-east of Port Blair, and of Narkandam Island. The article concludes with an enumeration of the useful products contained in the rocks of the Andamans — Coal, Serpentine, Iron, &c.

### § 3.—*Dynamical Geology.*

#### (a) *Volcanoes and Earthquakes.*

The earliest geological contribution to the Society's *Transactions* is a note on "Barren Island and its Volcano by Lieut R H. Colebrooke,"

R. H Colebrooke  
1795.

published in the fourth volume of the *Researches*. On the 12th of May, 1787, on a voyage to Pinlo Penang, he saw a column of smoke ascend from the summit of Barren Island. By the help of his glasses he perceived the smoke to arise from a hill nearly in its centre, around which appeared an extensive valley. He quotes Captain Blain's description of an eruption which he had witnessed on the 21th of March, 77, about two months previously. It runs thus — "The volcano was in a violent state of eruption, bursting out immense volumes of smoke, and frequently showers of red hot stones. Some were of a size to weigh 3 or 4 tons, and had been thrown some 100 yards past the foot of the cone. There were two or three eruptions while we were close to it. . . . The base of the cone is the lowest part of the island and very little higher than the level of the sea."

Colonel Colebrooke concludes his note with some speculations which considering the time they were written (about 1790), are very interesting. Europe, as we saw before, was then being agitated by the disputes between the rival factions of the Neptunists and the Vulcanists. Colonel Colebrooke, like most other Indian Geologists, probably had no previous geological training, and certainly did not belong to either of these parties. "From the very singular and uncommon appearance of this island," he remarks, "it might be conjectured, that it has been thrown up entirely from the sea by the action of subterranean fire. Perhaps, but a few centuries ago, it had not reared itself above the waves, but might have been gradually emerging from the bottom of the ocean, long before it became visible, till at length it reached the surface. The cone or volcano would rapidly increase in bulk from the continual discharge of lava and combustible matter. . . . If this conjecture should gain credit, we may suppose not only many islands but a great portion



of the habitable globe, to have been thrown up by volcanoes, which are now mostly extinguished. . . . A ground-plan of Barren Island would so exactly resemble some of the lunar spots as seen through a good telescope when their shadows are strong, that I cannot help thinking there are also many more volcanoes in the moon than have yet been discovered by a celebrated modern astronomer." A sketch of the volcano accompanies the paper.

Edward Halstead, Commander of Her Majesty's Sloop

E. P. Halstead  
1841.

"Childers," contributed an elaborate report on Cheduba, in which a chapter is

devoted to Geology. He mentions the fact of an elevation of the island having taken place within the memory of man, and of the extension of the elevatory movement over all the shoals and islands from the Terribles, off the north end of Ramri, to Foul Island. The movement in question has been about thirteen feet at the Terribles, twenty-two feet on various parts of the north-western reef of Cheduba, sixteen feet at the north point of the island, thirteen feet at the centre of the island on the west coast, twelve feet at the southern end, and from twelve to nine feet in the islands south of Cheduba as far as Foul Island. Commander Halstead met with a man, aged 106 years, who gave him an account of the elevation of Cheduba, accompanied by an earthquake, which had occurred when he was 15 years, *i.e.*, about 1751. "The earthquake was very violent, the sea washed to and fro several times with great fury, and then retired from the grounds, leaving an immense quantity of fish; the feasting on which is a favourite story throughout the island; no lives were lost, no rents in the earth occurred, nor fire from the volcanoes of the island." These, known as "mud volcanoes," were all visited. The larger volcanoes when in eruption, which is stated to take place during the rains,

are described as occasionally ejecting fluid mud, mixed with angular fragments of stone (to some of which small portions of copper ore are found attached) torn from the strata, through which the vent is forced

Colonel Baird Smith, of the Bengal Engineers, was the first to record and analyze the phenomena of Indian earthquakes. The first part of his long and admirable Memoir is a register of Indian earthquakes for 1842. An historical summary of known shocks, from 1803, with remarks on the general distribution of subterranean disturbing forces throughout India and its frontier countries, is given in the second part. Colonel Baird Smith then proceeds to give an analysis of the Indian earthquakes, and concludes with remarks on the points to be observed during earthquake shocks, and on the means of making the requisite observations. In 1845, he furnished a record of Indian and Asiatic earthquakes for 1843.

The earthquakes in Assam for 1839—43 were recorded by Captain Hannay, who was one of our most zealous contributors, and those from 1874 to 1880 by the Assam Government. Scattered through the pages of the Society's *Journal* are registers of various earthquakes in other parts of India.

S Hannay and Assam  
Government.  
1839—43 & 1874—80

### (b) *Glacial Action.*

Captain Hodgson, in his account of a visit to the source of the Ganges in 1817, published in the fourteenth volume of the *Researches*, describes the Ganges as issuing from under "a very low arch at the foot of the grand snow-bed," about a mile and-

I A Hodgson  
1822

a-half in width, with small hollows, and "the snow stuck full of rubbish and rocks imbedded in it" These *débris* are described as being supported in the snow, sinking as it sinks.

Mr. J. H. Batten, who was for some time resident in Kumáun, and was long one of our most zealous members, edited in the eleventh volume of the *Journal* Captain Manson's Diary of a trip to Milum and the Anta Dhura Pass. Captain Manson noticed at the source of the Gori River, about a mile north-west from Milum, "a mass of dark-coloured ice," covered with rock-fragments forming a succession of low hills. The bases of the hills on either sides are described as a succession of landslips: but from their distance, Captain Manson could not believe it possible, "that the *débris* in the centre of the snow-bed valley can have fallen there from the side hills. Lieutenant Weller, Executive Engineer in Kumáun, also visited this glacier on a visit to the Bulaba and Anta Dhura Passes

Captain E. Madden, of the Bengal Artillery, made an excursion to the Pinder (or Pindii) glacier in September, 1816, and contributed his observations in the form of a diary to the sixteenth volume of the *Journal*. But it was Lieutenant R. Strachey who first systematically studied the Himálaya glaciers. In May, 1847, he paid a visit to the Pindir and Kuphne glaciers, both in the Kumáun Himálaya; and an interesting paper was the result, in which he came to the conclusion, that "in the Himálaya, as in the Alps, almost every valley that descends from the range covered with perpetual snow has at its head a true glacier."

Lieutenant R. Strachey again visited the Pindir glacier in May, 1848, chiefly with a view to the accurate measurement of its motion : and the result of his operations was published in the seventeenth volume of the *Journal*. The mean motion of the ice in 24 hours is thus given in inches —

	On the lateral moraines	On the middle of the glacier
Lower part of the glacier	1 8	9 1
Upper part of the glacier	5 3	10 0

Colonel Godwin-Austen, in an article on the "Pangong Lake District of Ladak," pointed out numerous instances of evident ice-action in the Káshmir territory. He detected traces of a glacial period even as low as the valley of the Jhelum at Baramúla. "When the glaciers extended down to 5 000 feet," he remarks, "what must have been the appearance of the Upper Shyok, Indus, and Chang Chungmo, where 12 000 to 13 000 feet is the lowest level of the country. Contemplation of such a scene in the mind's eye renders the formation of lakes and the accumulations of detrital matter a natural sequence very easy to imagine."

In August 1875, he read a paper, in which he showed that on so low a latitude as  $25^{\circ} 30' N$ , glaciers of considerable dimensions must have once filled the valleys of the Bural Range, the main ridge of the Nágá Hills. He observed moraines at a height of 9,890 feet above the level of the sea, and met with huge transported blocks of sandstone, one of which measured 1 320 cubic feet, as low as 4,800 feet.

Mr. Blanford, in his account of a visit to the eastern and northern frontiers of Independent Sikkim,\* described traces of former glaciers

W. T. Blanford  
1871

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\* See Geographical Index, p. lxxviii

which he had observed in the Upper Tístá Valley at between 5,000 and 6,000 feet, and especially noticed the great moraines of the Láchung and Láchén Valleys described by Dr. Hooker in his "*Himalayan Journal*."

Mr. Campbell, author of "*Frost and Fire*," while travelling in India, contributed some remarks on Himálayan glaciation. Between the Ganges and the Ravi, which included the Masuri Hills and the country to the north-west of Simla, he could find no evidence of glacial action, no "perched block," "hogbacked ridge," or rounded valley. He failed to detect even in the coarsest conglomerate any trace of an erratic boulderbed or anything approaching to a moraine. The great blocks so abundant in the Kángará Valley, which had been first brought to the notice of geologists by Mr. H. B. Medlicott, were attributed by him to river deposits.

The only direct evidence of presumed glaciation that came within the range of Mr. Campbell's immediate observations, were the great blocks of gneiss along the base of the Dhuládhár in the Kángará Valley within an elevation of 3,000 feet, which Mr. Medlicott had described in 1864 as probably due to glacial action. While pointing out that Mr. Campbell had overlooked the principal point upon which that opinion had been based, Mr. Medlicott indicated possible by-gone conditions in the Kángará Valley, whereby the position of the great boulders might be due to ordinary diluvial action as suggested by Mr. Campbell, but at the same time Mr. Medlicott insisted that the conditions aforesaid were presumably connected with a great former extension of glacial action in the Himálaya, probably contemporaneous with the Glacial Period.

(c) *River Action*

The Rev. R Everest instituted, in 1831, a series of experiments to ascertain the quantity of earthy matter brought down by the Ganges at Gházipur, the results of which laid before the Society in June, 1832, were :—

<i>Season</i>	<i>Average breadth in feet</i>	<i>Velocity in feet per hour</i>	<i>Cubic feet dis- charged per second</i>
Rains (4 months)	. 2,080	23,800	494,208
Winter (5 months)	. . 1,780	7,435	71,200
Hot weather (3 months)	1,730	7,445	36,330

The average quantity of solid matter suspended in the water during the 122 days of the rains was found to be  $\frac{1}{8}$ th part of solid matter by weight, taking the specific gravity of the water at one-half that of the dried mud, the solid matter discharged amounted to 577 cubic feet per second, giving a total of 6,082,041,600 cubic feet for the discharge in the 122 days of the rains

Mr Piddington,\* Curator of the Society's Museum of Economic Geology, gave, in 1854, a tabular statement of the quantity of silt held in suspension by the water of the Hugh at Calcutta for each month of the year 1842 Two years later, he contributed a far more elaborate series of measurements Tabular statements are given of the amount of silt held in suspension at the surface as well as at a mean depth of about three fathoms, by the waters of the Hugh at Calcutta, and at the mouth of the Hugh below Saugor Observations on the width, mean depth, sectional area, mean velocity per second, and discharge

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\* *Vide ante*, p 15

per second, of the river, by Lieutenant-Colonel Goodwyn, Bengal Engineers, at Calcutta. and by Mr. A. Bedford at Mayápur, thirteen miles below Calcutta, and at the Jagahálí Semaphore below Diamond Point, are also tabulated \*

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\* It was originally intended to have a section on Mineralogical papers and notices, as historically they are highly important. But being mostly mere chemical analyses, their review would have required an amount of time and space, which, even if I had it at my command I would consider unnecessary, as they have been distinguished in the accompanying Geological Indices, so that the reader may pick them out and ascertain their nature with but little trouble

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## CHAPTER III

## ZOOLOGY \*

[§ 1 Introductory I Vertebrata § 2 Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, and Amphibia — Hodgson — Falconer — Cutler — Butler — Durand — Bluth — Tiedell — Blanford — Theobald — Godwin-Austen — Stoliczka — Anderson — Lydekker § 3 Fishes — McClelland — Bleth — Carter — Day II Invertebrata — Benson and Hunter — Theobald — H F and W T Blanford — Godwin-Austen — G & H Nevill — Stoliczka — Wood-Mason — Marshall — Nicoll ]

§ 1 — *Introductory*

SIR W. JONES was averse to zoological study. "Could the figure, instincts, and qualities," says he in one of his anniversary discourses,† "be ascertained either on the plan of Buffon, or on that of Linnæus without giving pain to the object of our examination, few studies would afford us more solid instruction, or more exquisite delight, but I never could learn by what right, nor conceive with what feeling, a naturalist can occasion the misery of an innocent bird, and leave its young, perhaps, to perish in a cold nest, because it has gay plumage; and has never been delineated, or deprive even a butterfly of its natural enjoyment, because it has the misfortune to be rare or beautiful." These are noble and humane sentiments. So feelingly and eloquently declared and by a man of Sir William Jones's position and influence, they no doubt tended seriously to discourage zoological research. As a consequence, we had none worth the name until the year 1828

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\* See Indices, pp xliii and xlii—xciv

† Tenth Anniversary Discourse, *Asiatic Researches*, Vol IV



## I — VERTEBRATA.

§ 2 — *Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles*

In that year the systematic study of the Vertebrata of India was commenced by Mr. Bryan B H Hodgson.  
1829—48  
Houghton Hodgson, for many years Resident at the Court of Nepal, and perhaps the oldest Member of the Society now living. His contributions on the Bird and Mammalian Fauna of Nípál, Sikim, and Tibet, published in the *Researches* and the *Journal*, amount to no less than ninety. They are all characterized by "deep research and great acumen, and are very full in details of structure."

At the June meeting of the Society in 1831, Mr. Secretary Prinsep read the following letter from Dr. H. Falconer, dated from Sílháranpur :—

Hugh Falconer.  
1831—59.

"SIR,—In No 3 of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society* [Vol. I, p 97], Mr Royle has announced the discovery by me of the fossil bones in the range of hills which skirts the valley of Dehra on the southwest. I regret that Mr. Royle did not confine himself to a simple announcement of the fact, without giving an extract from the letter in which it is mentioned. The communication was made immediately after I had met with the fossils, and was an unguarded expression to an intimate friend of what I imagined them to be, and not an opinion intended for a public journal in the *ipsissima verba* of the letter. Beyond, therefore, the fact of fossil bones occurring in these hills, I do not wish to stand responsible for any opinion regarding their specific determination in the present imperfect state of the inquiry. As yet they have been found in a small quantity only, and consist of a few fragmented portions of bones. The lignite occurs in great abundance. The "fragments of the shells"

(not the 'skull' as stated in the *Journal*) of tortoises resemble those found by Mr. Crawford and Dr. Wallich on the banks of the Irāwadi, and others contained in the Museum of the Asiatic Society. The "fragment of a bivalve shell" is very imperfect, and therefore very questionable.

"I conceive it necessary to state that Lieut. Cantley, Superintendent of the Doab Canal, is the original discoverer of fossils in these hills. The most perfect portion I have yet seen of these fossil bones has been in his possession several years, without, however, his being aware of its nature'.

This is the earliest published communication from the pen of Dr. Falconer, and the first on those grand discoveries which have immortalized his name and added so much to the fame of the Asiatic Society. Brief as the communication is, and though it was written at the early age of twenty-two, it shows admirably that caution and that spirit of scientific research which characterize the subsequent writings of that truly great man. He was cautious almost to a fault, and never committed himself to an opinion until he felt quite sure about it. "And thus," remarks his biographer, "as too often happens under such circumstances, he constantly deferred publishing his views, and others reaped the credit of observations originally made by him." Superficial people, who measure the energy of a man by the amount of his published writings without regard to their quality, have brought the charge of idleness against Falconer. He was certainly not a voluminous writer, but whatever he wrote are models of what scientific papers should be.

Dr. Falconer arrived in Calcutta as an Assistant Surgeon in the East India Company's service, in September, 1830. He at once undertook an examination of the fossil bones from Ava in the collection of our Society, and communicated a short

paper on them, which was published in the third volume of "Gleanings in Science." While at Mirat, to which station he was ordered early in 1831, he made the acquaintance of Dr. Royle, then Superintendent of the Botanical Garden at Sáháranpur. The acquaintance developed into friendship; and on the retirement of Dr. Royle in 1832, Falconer succeeded him in charge of the garden. He was then only twenty-three.

At that time three eminent Engineers, whose names stand foremost in the early history of Indian Irrigation, Sir (then Captain) Proby T. Cautley, W Baker, H. Durand. Sir (then Lieutenant) William Baker, and Sir (then Lieutenant) Henry Durand, were engaged on the Jumna Canals, the heads of which are close to Sáháranpur. A friendship sprang up between Falconer and Cautley, and their names are henceforth linked together in connection with the Siválík Fauna, as are those of Baker and Durand.

On the 16th of November, 1834, Lieutenant Baker sent to the Secretary of the Asiatic Society a sketch of a fossil elephant's tooth, which had been presented to him by the Rájá of Náhan. Having heard of the tooth, Falconer made inquiry, and had a fragment of a similar tooth presented to him also. He says, in a letter to the Secretary dated Masuri, 3rd January, 1835 :—

"I got a hint where they [the teeth] came from, and on going to the spot, I reaped a splendid harvest. Conceive only my good fortune; within six hours, I got upwards of 300 specimens of fossil bones. This was on November 20th, a couple of days after Lieutenants Baker and Durand had got their first specimens through their native collectors."

The nineteenth volume of the *Researches* contains Memoirs by Falconer and Cautley on the *Swatherium Giganteum*, the *Felis Cristata*, and the *Ursus Sivalensis*, and on fossil species

of the camel and the hippopotamus. In the same volume is published also a paper on "The Hippopotamus and other Fossil Genera of the Sub-Himálayas in the Dádupui Collection" by Lieutenant Dmánd.

The discoveries near the valley of Markunda were enthusiastically followed up by similar ones in other parts of the Sub-Himálayan Range, and the fourth, fifth, and sixth volumes of the *Journal* are rich in contributions on the remarkable fauna thus brought to light by Messrs Falconer, Cautley, Baker, and Dmánd. Unequalled for richness and extent in any other region then known, the fossils created no little sensation throughout the scientific world. The Wollaston Medal in duplicate was awarded in 1837 to Dr. Falconer and Captain Cautley by the Geological Society; and the learned Societies of Europe and America hastened to mark their appreciation by the bestowal of appropriate honours. Sir Charles Lyell announced the award of the Geological Society in terms which must have been no mean incentive to young Falconer—for he was at the time under thirty. "When," remarked Sir Charles, "Captain Cautley and Dr. Falconer first discovered these remarkable remains, their curiosity was awakened, and they felt convinced of their great scientific value, but they were not versed in fossil osteology, and being stationed on the remote confines of our Indian possessions, they were far distant from any living authorities or books on comparative anatomy to which they could refer. The manner in which they overcame these disadvantages, and the enthusiasm with which they continued for years to prosecute their researches, when thus isolated from the scientific world, are truly admirable."

From 1813 to 1847, Dr. Falconer was in England, engaged in the determination and illustration of the Siválík fossils in the British Museum and the East India House.



earnestness by another eminent zoologist. Even before his departure for India to be Curator of the Society's Natural History Museum, Mr Blyth had made his mark in England as an ardent student of zoology. On his arrival here, he set himself to the performance of his duties with characteristic zeal and devotion, which were more than once acknowledged by the Society, but it was his devotion to the cause of science that mainly supported him in his twenty-two years' hard work in a tropical climate and at an inadequate remuneration. His work was the work of love; and it is such work alone that keeps one up—as it certainly did keep up Blyth—in the midst of struggles and difficulties.

As Curator, Blyth was required to furnish monthly reports. Besides these, each of which occupies from fifteen to twenty pages, his contributions to the *Journal*, mostly on Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals, amount to no less than forty. His Catalogue of Birds in the Asiatic Society's Collection was published in 1849, and that of Mammalia in 1863. The last sheets of the latter work were seen through the press by his friend, Jerdon. Twenty-one years of incessant work—and not a little of it was pure drudgery—had seriously affected Blyth's health, and in the summer of 1862, it broke down so completely that he was compelled to retire and proceed to England. During the last three years of his life there, he was engaged in the preparation of a catalogue of the Mammals and Birds of Burma at the request of Sir A. Phayre. He did not live to publish it; and it was printed by the Asiatic Society as an extra number in 1875, two years after his death, with a biographical notice by Mr Grote and a portrait of the author.

Darwin frequently quoted Blyth as an "excellent authority," and Gould refers to him as "one of the first zoologists of his time." Blyth was certainly the founder in

this country of a school of what may be called field-zoologists. The active correspondence he kept on with the sportsmen-naturalists—most of the zoologists in India are such—in various parts of the country, and his elaborate notices of the presentations which were made by them to the Society, not to speak of his numerous Memoirs, “contributed an impetus to the study of natural history that has done more to its extension in India than all the previous publications”

Since the time of Blyth, the scientific contributions received by the Society have been mainly zoological. Foremost among his successors stand the names of Jerdon, Blanford, Theobald, Tickell, Godwin-Austen, Dobson, Brooks, and Tytler, whose contributions enrich the pages of the *Journal* for the last twenty years.

Colonel S. R. Tickell was one of the pioneers of Indian Ornithology. As early as 1833, he presented the Society with a list of Birds collected by him in the jungles of Barabhum and Dholbhum. His contributions on Birds, Reptiles, &c, extend down to 1865.

Mr. W. T. Blanford\* has long been a most active contributor. Wherever he has been—and his duties have carried him to various parts not only of Asia, but also of Africa—he has most zealously collected the Mollusca, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals of the locality, and described them for the Society. His numerous papers on these branches of Zoology are characterized by that ability, judgment, and thoroughness which mark his equally, or perhaps still more, numerous geological researches.

Mr. Theobald† will be long remembered for his valuable contributions to the Herpetology and Malacology of India and Burma. The

S R Tickell  
1838-65

W T Blanford  
1868—

W Theobald  
1866—.

\* See above, Chapter II p 40.

† *Ibid*, p 47.

latter will be noticed later on, with regard to the former his most important works are his Catalogues of the Reptiles. The first of these is his "Catalogue of Reptiles in the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal," which was published as an extra number to the *Journal*, Part II for 1868.

Colonel Godwin-Austen, whose geological work was reviewed in the last Chapter, described and catalogued the Birds collected by him in various parts of Assam for the Society in a number of highly valuable papers.

Dr. G. E. Dobson, of the Netley Hospital, author of the "Monograph of the Asiatic Chnoptera," communicated a number of articles on the *Chnoptera* in the Society's *Journal* for 1871. He is one of the highest authorities on that order of the Mammalia; and his descriptions are thorough and accurate.

That accomplished naturalist, the late lamented Stoliczka, who held the Natural History Secretaryship for over five years, contributed several important papers which comprise nearly all the classes of the Vertebrata, and several of the Invertebrata, which latter will be noticed in the next section.

The mantle of Blyth fell on Dr J. Anderson,\* the present accomplished Superintendent of the India Museum. In 1871, he contributed a paper on 'Reptilian Accessions to the Indian Museum from 1865 to 1870, with a description of some new species.' The *Journal* for 1877 contains his descriptions of some new and little-known Asiatic shrews in the collections of the Indian Museum, and that for the following year a monograph on the Indian species of the *Erinaceus*.

\* Dr Anderson was Natural History Secretary of the Society from 1865 to 1867.



The pages of the *Proceedings* also contain descriptions by Dr. Anderson of various new or little-known Vertebrate forms

To Mr. R. Lydekker, late of the Geological Survey of India,  
 R Lydekker an accomplished Comparative Anatomist.  
 1877—

who acted for some time as Natural History Secretary, the Society is indebted for a number of contributions, among which is his "History of the Fossil Vertebrata of India"

### § 3.—*Fishes.*

Dr. M'Clelland's Monograph of the Indian *Cyprinidæ*, published in the second part of the nineteenth volume of the *Researches*, laid the foundation of the study of the Fishes of India. The next important contributor on the subject was Dr. Cantor, of the Bengal Medical Service, whose "Catalogue of Malayan Fishes" was published in the *Journal* for 1850. Mr E. Blyth was the author of several interesting papers on the Fishes of India, Pegu, Port Blair, &c., printed in the *Journal* for 1858, 1859, and 1860. The last and best known writer is Dr. F. Day, the author of two handsomely illustrated volumes on the "Fishes of India". His articles were communicated between 1870 and 1872. Of these the longest and most important is his Monograph of the *Cyprinidæ* printed in six parts in the *Journal* for 1871 and 1872.

## II — INVERTEBRATA

Mr W H Benson and Lieutenant T Hunter were the earliest contributors on the Land and Freshwater-Shells of India. Their numerous papers are scattered through the pages of the "Gleanings in Science" and the *Journal* of the Society for a quarter of a century, from 1830 to 1855.

H. Benson and T  
 Hunter  
 1830—55

In 1857-58, Mr Theobald commenced a highly important series of papers on the Land and Freshwater-Shells of Burma and India,

W Theobald  
 1857—

which were continued with but little intermission down to 1881.

In 1860, Mr W. T. Blanford, in conjunction with his brother, Mr H F Blanford, contributed the first of a series of Malacological contributions. The second of the series appeared under their joint authorship in the following year, and henceforth the articles were continued by Mr. W T Blanford till 1880, when the twelfth and last of the series appeared. Besides the Mollusca contained in these papers, Mr Blanford has described many more from India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Colonel Godwin-Austen has presented the Society with a series of valuable descriptions of the Shells collected by him in Assam.

All these writers confined their attention to Land and Freshwater Mollusca which they had mostly collected themselves on survey expeditions. To Messrs H and G Nevill, especially to the latter, we are indebted for accurate descriptions of a number of marine and estuarine Mollusca.

The distinguished writers, whose work we have just noticed, wrote mainly upon Mollusca and almost exclusively upon the *shells* or then solid parts. It was in 1869 that Ferdinand Stoliczka first commenced in this country the systematic study of the Anatomy, Physiology, and Morphology of the *animal*, not only of Mollusca, but of other Invertebrata. He was a zoologist of the new school—a laboratory-zoologist. Even before he joined the Geological Survey of India in 1862, he had established a reputation as naturalist and geologist in connection with the Imperial Geological Survey of Austria. As Palæontologist to the Indian Survey, his work on the Cretaceous Fauna of Southern India testifies

nobleman at the head of an Indian Government, in his time very considerable, and that he fully discharged all the duties of his important station, while he found leisure to compile those twelve large volumes, which Linnæus himself pronounces *accurate*."

Sir William Jones describes the plants under their Sanscrit names, and gives the vulgar and Latin names as synonyms, and he was fully persuaded that Linnæus himself would have adopted the same plan had he known the learned and ancient languages of this country.

The foundation of the Botanic Gardens at Calcutta in 1786, and those at Sâhâranpur in 1823, and the munificent patronage which was early accorded to Botany by the Court of Directors of the East India Company, removed that science from the special care and attention of the Society; and when the Physical Committee was formed (or rather revived) in 1828, Botany was excluded from the objects of their research. The explanation of this exclusion is contained in the following passage from the introductory paper of Mr J. Calder, published in the first part of the eighteenth volume of the *Researches*:—

"In the colonial possessions of other nations, the whole field of nature has been explored and described by scientific and enlightened travellers: whilst in India it has been almost entirely neglected with one splendid exception, in which the munificent patronage of the East India Company has enabled a distinguished member of our Society to make magnificent discoveries in the Vegetable Kingdom. May we not hope that the same patronage may be extended to other departments of Physical Science, and that as Indian Botany has found its Linnæus, we may yet see the treasures of the Animal and Mineral Kingdoms unfolded to us by a Humboldt and a Cuvier."

William Roxburgh was this "Indian Linnæus." He first reduced the plants of the East to the form of a flora, and was appointed Superintendent of the Calcutta Botanic Gardens in 1793, which office he continued to fill until 1814, when he went home and died at Edinburgh in April, 1815. He was a most active member of the Society, and was for many years a member of the Committee of Papers. His contributions to the Society, though few, were most valuable, especially his descriptions of the Indian *Cannaceæ*.

Dr. N. Wallich, a Dane, who came to India as Surgeon of the Danish settlement of Serámpur, was taken prisoner when that place was captured by the English. His reputation as a botanist, however, induced the Government not only to liberate him, but place him in charge of the Botanic Gardens in 1815. In 1820, appeared in the thirteenth volume of the *Researches* his descriptions of rare Indian plants, which were afterwards developed into his grand work, The "*Plantæ Asiaticæ. Rarioræ*," in three folio volumes with three-hundred coloured plates, published by the East India Company in 1832.

William Griffiths, one of the most distinguished botanists of the age, arrived at Calcutta as Assistant Surgeon in 1835. That very year he presented the Society with descriptions of several interesting plants, published in the nineteenth volume of the *Researches*, and was at once appointed to accompany Dr. Wallich to Assam. He explored the country between Sadiyá and Ará, making magnificent collections of plants and animals; and contributed several important botanical papers on the flora of that country to the sixth and seventh volumes of the *Journal*. He

traversed the Bhután country as Surgeon to Pemberton's Embassy, and subsequently joined the army of the Indus in a scientific capacity. He went to Malacca at the end of 1847, and there died early next year.\*

Dr. J. D. Hooker, Honorary Member of the Society, while on his memorable visit to this country, contributed two papers, one entitled "Observations made when following the Grand Trunk Road across the hills of Upper Bengal, Paresnáth, &c, in the Són Valley, and on the Kymore Branch of the Vindhyan hills;" and the other, "Notes chiefly Botanical, made during an excursion from Darjeeling to Tonglo, a lofty mountain on the confines of Sikkim and Nepal"

Dr. T. Thomson, who, in conjunction with Dr. Hooker, began the "Flora Indica," contributed in 1856 "Notes on the Herbarium of the Calcutta Botanic Garden," of which he was the Superintendent, with special reference to the completion of that grand work, which, however, was never completed, owing to the refusal of the Court of Directors to give any assistance

\* The following letter of condolence was addressed to Mrs Griffiths —

MADAM,—I am directed by the Asiatic Society of Bengal to express its deep and heartfelt condolence with you for the irreparable loss which you have sustained

The Asiatic Society had not been inattentive to the great scientific ability, untiring zeal, and thorough disinterestedness of the late Doctor Griffiths, and it looked forward to the day when, had it been so permitted, he might have been associated, and that in a position worthy of him, to the labours of its members, in aid of which he had already contributed so valuably and ably

Thus hope no longer exists, but the Asiatic Society have deemed it right to express how deeply it mourns in common with the scientific public of India and Europe the loss of one from whose labours so much had already resulted and more was hoped for

(Sd) H TOPPERS

MUSEUM, }  
The 7th Nov, 1847 }

Vice-President and Secy Asiatic Society of Bengal

To Dr. T Anderson, who succeeded Dr. Thomson at the Calcutta Gardens, we are indebted for two valuable articles, *viz.*, "Notes on the Flora of Lucknow, with Catalogues of the cultivated and indigenous Plants ;" and "The Flora of Behar and the mountain Paresnathi, with a list of the species collected by Messrs Hooker, Edgeworth, Thomson, and Anderson" Mr M P Edgeworth, who was an active contributor for ten years, from 1842 to 1852, did much for the promotion of Botanical Science in India

T Anderson  
1859-63

M P Edgeworth  
1842-52

## § 2 — *Burmese Flora.*

Sulpiz Kurz came to Calcutta as Curator of the Herbarium of the Botanical Gardens early in 1864. He became a member of our Society in 1869, and in 1872 began in the forty-first volume of the *Journal* that series of highly valuable papers on the Burmese Flora, the last of which appeared in 1877, a few months before his death. These researches formed the most important work of his life, which "has placed the name of Kurz in the first rank of Indian Botanists"

S Kurz  
1872-77

## § 3 — *Palæo-Botany*

The fossil floras of India were first systematically investigated by Dr. O Feistmantel, the accomplished Palæontologist to the Geological Survey of India. In 1876, he presented us descriptions of a number of plants from the Dámudá series, the richest and most important of the Gondwáná system

O Feistmantel  
1876

A few years later Dr Feistmantel contributed an able résumé of his valuable work in connection with the Flora and Fauna of the whole of the Gondwáná system. The fossils, the great majority of which are plants, are enumerated in biological order, with their range in space and time

## CHAPTER V

## GEOGRAPHY.\*

[§ 1 The Himalayas — R. H. Colebrooke — Webb — Raper — Moorcroft — Gerard — H. T. Colebrooke — Herbert — Csoma de Koros — Baron Hugel — Cunningham — H. Strachey — R. Strachey — Campbell — Hodgson — Montgomerie — P. S. Sherwill — J. L. Sherwill — W. F. Blanford — Nain Sing § 2 Assam and the North-Eastern Frontier — Wilson — Hannay — Grange — Bigge — Yule — Peal § 3 Burma, the Islands in the Bay of Bengal, China, &c — Hannay — Richardson — McLeod — Des Granges — Foley — Tickell — Williams — Louis — Newbold — Colebrooke — Fontana — Barbe § 4 Southern India — Stirling — Kittoe § 5 Western India and the North-Western Frontier — E. De la Heste — Postans — Leech — Falconer — Montgomerie — Obbard — Pratt — W. T. Blanford — Fenwick § 6 Afghanistan and Central Asia — Burnes — Wathen — Vigne — E. Conolly — A. Conolly — Gardiner and Edgeworth — Raverty — Waterhouse.]

§ 1 — *The Himálayas*

ONE of the most interesting geographical problems at the commencement of the present century was the position of the source of the Ganges. All that was known of the Upper Himálayas and Tibet at the time was derived from Chinese authorities through Jesuit missionaries. 'As early as the beginning of the eighteenth century, a map of Tibet had been constructed by persons in the retinue of a Chinese Ambassador to that country, and was given to Father Regis, one of the missionaries at Peking. He pointed out its defects; and the Chinese Emperor, resolved to have one more accurate, deputed two Lamas to Tibet, who had studied arithmetic and geometry in a Chinese college, with instructions to prepare a map of the country from Sinning.

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\* See Index, pp. LXI

to Lhasá, and thence to the sources of the Ganges. The map which they executed was placed for examination in the hands of the Jesuit missionaries in 1717, and, based chiefly on it, the latter prepared a map of Tibet, which is published in Du Halde's description of China.

Anquetil du Perron, who showed good grounds to reject the authority of the Lamas for the sources of the Ganges, published in 1784 the result of the geographical researches of Father Tieffenthaler, a Jesuit missionary in India. But though Tieffenthaler delineated the course of the Sarayu from the lake of Mánassarovara to the plains, and that of the Ganges to Gangauti, his conclusions were not based upon personal observations; and the question of the source of one of the largest rivers in the world still lay involved in considerable doubt and uncertainty. An actual survey of the Ganges above Hardwar, where it enters British territory, to the farthest accessible point, was necessary, and the man who now guided the operations of the Geographical Departments at Calcutta took up the idea most warmly.

R. H. Colebrooke  
1803—1810

Colonel R. H. Colebrooke, whose astronomical and geological observations we have noticed already, became Surveyor-General in 1803. He had in 1795 contributed to the *Researches* papers on the Andaman Islands and the islands of Nancowry and Comaty, and in 1801, one on the course of the Ganges through Bengal. In 1808, he obtained the sanction of the Government for an expedition to the source of the Ganges. But while making preparations for his journey, he was seized with a fatal illness; and the execution of the enterprise devolved upon his assistant, Lieutenant Webb, who was accompanied by Captain Raper and Captain Hearsay. The journal of Captain Raper and a

Lieutenant Webb and  
Captain Raper  
1810



summary of the results of the survey by Lieutenant Webb are published in the eleventh volume of the *Researches*, prefaced by an historical introduction from the pen of H. T. Colebrooke, the orientalist, a kinsman of the Surveyor-General. This enterprise was followed up with indefati-

W Moorcroft  
1812

gable perseverance by Moorcroft, who, accompanied by Heavisay, visited in 1812

the western shores of the celebrated lake Mánassarovara in which the Ganges was long supposed to take its rise. The country had never before been explored by any European ; and Moorcroft's "Journey to Mánassarovara, in Undes," published in the twelfth volume of the Society's *Transactions*, first supplied accurate information regarding it. He established the fact that the lake does not give origin either to the Ganges or any of the other rivers reputed to flow from it

Dr. Gerard followed Moorcroft, and ascended the Spiti

J G Gerard  
1833

Valley. He crossed various ridges at elevations between 15,000 and 16,000

feet, and found the snowy zone to be of great breadth, and, instead of being a single line of peaks, to present consecutive ranges. His geographical and ethnological observations on the Spiti Valley are recorded in a paper published in the second part of the eighteenth volume of the *Researches*.

The great height of the Himálayas had long been sus-

H T Colebrooke  
1816

pected, but upon insufficient evidence.

In 1816, H. T. Colebrooke brought together all the observations that had been made on the subject up to that date in a paper "On the Height of the Himálaya Mountains," which set all doubts at rest

At the conclusion of the Nepál war, Captain Hodgson

J D Herbert  
1816—20

and Lieutenant Herbert were appointed by Lord Hastings to survey the Himá-

lavas between the Satlaj and the Ganges; and Captain Webb to continue the survey through Kúmáon. Some of the results of these important operations were given to the world through the Asiatic Society. In 1819, Captain Herbert penetrated as far as Shipki in Chinese Tartary, and presented an interesting account of his journey, which was printed in the fifteenth volume of the *Researches*. Herbert was the first geographer who attempted a detailed and systematic account of the physical geography of the Himálavan region and the country beyond; about the latter, however, his information was most imperfect. Humboldt had not yet undertaken his Asiatic Expedition, and his "Fragments Asiatiques" and "Asie Centrale" appeared long after the conclusion of Herbert's geographical studies. He was struck by a large central space in the map of Asia, which is strongly marked by the circumstances of being but little intersected by rivers, while numerous streams flow from it on every side, and unite to form some of the largest rivers of the world; and inasmuch as the source of every river must be higher than any other part of its course, he inferred, that the zone in which these rivers originate is higher than the plain through which they flow to seek the ocean. But he clearly saw at the same time, that the line of water-parting is by no means synonymous with the line of greatest elevation. "It may be," says he, "that the central tract is not of such great elevation as has too hastily been presumed."

Herbert's observations on the physical geography of the Himálayas were published by the Society in 1842, nearly ten years after his death, under the title of a "Report of the Mineralogical Survey of the Himálaya Mountains." In this admirable Memoir, Herbert speculates "upon the relation between the height of the sources

of rivers and the length of their courses, and gives a most interesting account of the Duns, the parallel chain of the Siválks, the forest belt at their bases, and the Terai region beyond."

The first volume of the *Journal* has a short but excellent geographical notice of Tibet from the pen of that distinguished Hungarian traveller and scholar, M. Alex. Csoma de Kőrös. It treats of the different provinces of Tibet, its lakes, glaciers, mines, medicinal waters, &c.

Baron Hugel explored Káshmir in 1835, shortly after Jacquemont, and placed the main results of his researches before the Society in a short paper published in the fifth volume of the *Journal*.

General A. Cunningham, the illustrious Archæologist, who was elected an Honorary Member of the Society in 1868, has enriched the pages of the *Journal* with several valuable contributions on Himálayan geography. In August and September, 1846, he penetrated to the Chu Mureri Lake in Ládák, passing through Kulu and Lahul. An account of the trip in the form of a diary appeared in the *Journal* for 1848.

While Cunningham was exploring Ládák, Lieutenant H. Strachey was engaged in a most arduous enterprise—a trip to Rakas Tal and Mánassarovara, and the valley of Pruang in Náii-Hundes, a detailed narrative of it was given to the public in the second part of the seventeenth volume of the *Journal*.

On the data furnished by Webb, Gerard, Herbert, and Moorcroft in the papers alluded to above, Von Humboldt arrived at the conclusion, that the limit of perpetual snow on the southern declivity

of the Himálayan chain is 13,000 feet above the sea-level; while his investigations on the northern declivity, on the peaks which rise above the plateau of Tartary, led him to fix their limit at 16,600 feet,—the difference being attributed by him to the result “conjointly of the radiation of heat from the neighbouring elevated plains, the serenity of the sky, and the infrequent formation of snow in very cold and very dry air” In April, 1849, Lieutenant R. Strachey submitted some valuable remarks on the Snow-line in the Himálayas between the north-western portion of Nepál and the Satlaj, which were published in the *Journal* for that month. He showed that the southern edge of the belt of perpetual snow in this portion of the Himálayas is at an elevation of 15,000 feet, while on the northern edge it rises to 18,500 feet; and that on the mountains to the north of the Satlaj exceeds that limit by 500 feet or more. “The greater elevation which the snow-line attains on the northern edge of the belt of perpetual snow is,” he concludes, “a phenomenon not confined to the Tibetan declivity alone, but extending far into the interior of the chain; and it appears to be chiefly caused by the quantity of snow that falls in the northern portion of the mountains being much less than that which falls further to the south, along the line where the peaks covered with perpetual snow first rise above the less elevated ranges of the Himálayas”

Dr Campbell, who was at first attached to the Residency at Kátmandu, and subsequently posted to Dárling as Superintendent, was the author of many important papers on Himálayan geography. He had long wished to visit Sikkim, but in vain. In September, 1848, he obtained the authority of Lord Dalhousie to procure

A Campbell and B  
H Hodgson  
1848-52

the permission of the Sikkim Raja for Dr. Hooker to travel in his territory ; and addressed the Raja in suitable terms. But under various pretexts, the chief of which was the dreaded wrath of the Sikkim deities if their sacred land were visited by an European, the permission was refused. The whole of Sikkim was declared to be thus sacred, and Kanchaungá, the special object of Dr. Hooker's journey, the most sacred of all. Dr. Campbell tried hard, but to no purpose. Resolved to see the Raja himself, he made a trip to Sikkim, a highly interesting narrative of which is published in the eighteenth volume of the *Journal*. The map accompanying contained a good deal of the geography of Sikkim previously unknown. He made another journey about the end of 1849, in company with Dr. Hooker, to the frontiers of Tibet, the details of which were laid before the Society and published in 1852. A map of Sikkim and Eastern Nepál, executed by Dr. Hooker, showing his routes, accompanies the paper.

Mr. Hodgson contributed several geographical papers, the most noteworthy of which is one on the physical geography of the Himálayas, which appears in the nineteenth volume of the *Journal*.

Perhaps the most important of the topographical surveys executed in Sir Andrew Waugh's time was that of Káshmir, in which some of the most eminent members of the Survey of India, such as Basevi, Montgomerie, Godwin-Austen, and Brownlow, were engaged and distinguished themselves. The explorations which were under the immediate charge of Captain Montgomerie were fruitful of the most important results. In 1857, he announced to the members of the Society the great height of the Nanga Parbat, which

T G Montgomerie  
1857.

H E Thuillier  
1859—

he estimated at 26,629 feet \* In 1859,  
Colonel (now General Sir H. E.) Thuil-

lier,† one of our oldest living members, who, though not contributing much to the *Journal*, always had the interests of the Society at heart, and afforded us material assistance in reproducing and printing maps, communicated the results of the measurement of another stupendous peak by the same Surveyor, which is second only to Mount Everest, its height being 28,278 feet A brief report of the work of the field season of 1860 was submitted by Captain Montgomerie The triangulation of the Káshmír series had made good progress up the Indus; and among the more noticeable achievements were the fixing of the position of Leh, the capital of Ládák and of several points in China

In 1852, Captain W. S Sherwill, of the Revenue Survey,  
W S Sherwill  
1853

made a tour to the Sikkim Himá-  
layas in order to ascertain the geological  
formation of Kanchanjingá and of the perpetually snow-

J L Sherwill  
1861

covered peaks in its vicinity; and in  
1861, Major J L Sherwill, also of the

Revenue Survey, undertook a trip, in company with Dr. B Simpson and Captain E Macpherson, to explore the glaciers of the Kanchanjingá group of the Sikkim Himá-  
layas Since the time of Drs Hooker and Campbell, very few Europeans had penetrated far into Sikkim; and the accounts of these two journeys, published in our *Journal*, were the only ones extant in 1871, when Mr W T Blanford, of the

W T Blanford.  
1871

Geological Survey, and Captain Elwes  
made a trip into the interior of that

country with a view especially to explore its fauna

\* Hitherto it had been put down as only 19,000 feet above the sea

† Sir H E Thuillier was President of the Society in 1863

§ 3.—*Burma, the Islands in the Bay of Bengal, China, &c.*

The exertions of Bedford, Wilcox, Neufville, and Burlton brought an enormous accession to geographical and ethnological knowledge. The journeys of Wilcox and Burlton had proved the absence of communication between the Iráwadi and the great Tsáupo of Tibet; but they were unable to extend their observations further east, and the greater portion of the valley of the Iráwadi still remained a *terra incognita*, owing to the jealous vigilance of the Burmese officials. The course of the lower portion of the Iráwadi had been delineated by Lieutenant Wood, who accompanied Captain Symes on his embassy to the court of Ava; and the topographical features of the surrounding country had at the same time been represented by Buchanan Hamilton.

But as regards the upper Iráwadi Valley, there was still a vast gap; and the expedition of Captain S. Hannay to the south-east frontier of Assam from the capital of Burma about the end of 1835 was the first important contribution towards a knowledge of that region. The scientific results of the expedition were embodied in a paper by Captain R. Boileau Pemberton and printed in the Society's *Journal* for 1837. Between 1830 and 1837, Dr Richardson and Captain McLeod made several journeys from Moulmein to Ava and the Chinese frontier, the accounts of which appeared in the second, fifth, and sixth volumes of the *Journal*, the eighth and ninth contain Dr Richardson's *Journal of a Mission to the Court of Siam*.

In 1848, Baron Otto des Granges contributed a paper, in which he showed the great commercial and political importance of the Burmese

S. Hannay and R. B.  
Pemberton.  
1835—37.

D Richardson and  
McLeod  
1830—40

Otto des Granges  
1848

town of Bhámo, and the practicability of a direct trade overland between Calcutta and China. Accounts of different parts of Burma and the adjoining country by Lieutenant W. Foley, Major Tickell, Dr C. Williams, and others are scattered through the pages of the *Journal*

W Foley  
1835-36

S R Tickell  
1841-59

C Williams  
1864

overland between Calcutta and China. Accounts of different parts of Burma and the adjoining country by Lieutenant W. Foley, Major Tickell, Dr C. Williams, and others are scattered through the

The Right Rev Jean Louis, Bishop of Isanopolis, Vicar-Apostolic of Cochin China, and Honorary Member of the Society, contributed two articles on the geography of Cochin China. In these he cleared up several points in which previous writers had contradicted each other — so much so, that Malte-Brun, the great geographer, declared that the knowledge of the country had become more obscure, the more it had been handled by successive writers.

Captain Newbold, the eminent geologist, was the author

T J Newbold  
1834-36

of a series of papers on Perak and various other states in the Malay Peninsula.

The islands in the Bay of Bengal have been described by Colonel R. H. Colebrooke, Nicolo Fontana, Foley, Williams, Dr Adam, and Rev P. Barbe.

R. H Colebrooke  
1790

N Fontana  
1792

P Barbe  
1846

#### § 4 — *Southern India.*

The first part of Stirling's well-known Memoirs on Orissa, published in the thirteenth volume of the *Researches*, treats of its boundaries,

A Stirling  
1825

ancient and modern, soil, productions, rivers, towns, commerce, population, &c. Captain M. Kittoe, a most energetic member of the Society, and one of Prinsep's indefatigable colleagues, was, in 1838, deputed by the Coal and Mineral Committee to explore the supposed coalfields of Orissa, which had been

M Kittoe  
1838-39



reported by him in the previous year. He started on his journey with a determination to make the most of his time, and of the small grant made for the purpose, in antiquarian and other researches beyond the mere exploration of coal-fields. The *Journals* for the following years witness the manner in which he acted up to this laudable resolution. Of his numerous papers several treat of the geography of the country travelled through, especially of Ousssa

§ 5.—*Western India, and the North-Western Frontier*

One of the earliest contributions on the geography of this part of India was from Captain De la Hoste, who reported on the country between Karáchi, Táttá, and Schwan. The next important paper is one by Lieutenant J. Postans on Upper Sind and the eastern portion of Cutchee, which is accompanied by a map of the route from Sakkar to Dádar and Kahan in the Mairi country, and a description of the various routes in Sind compiled from the Bombay official documents and communicated by the Government of India.

To Major Leech, Political Agent at Candahar, we are indebted for various contributions on Afghanistan, Beluchistan, and the North-Western Frontier of India. Besides exploring himself, he employed native agents as explorers, and translated and put their itineraries into shape for our *Journal*.

Dr. H. Falconer wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Society on the Cataclysm of the Indus of 1841, and "suggested, as an explanation, a temporary obstruction of the river with snow or ice above Iskardoh. Thus he supposed had dammed up the water and caused the river to be so low, that at Attock, in place of being, as usually, many fathoms, it was fordable

All at once the obstacle had given way, and a mighty flood coming down had swept everything before it."

The great flood of the Indus in August, 1858, brought together a number of observers at Attock. T G Montgomerie, J Obbard, and J H Pratt 1860 Captain Montgomerie, Mr Obbard, and Archdeacon Pratt contributed memoranda on it.

Mr Blanford has contributed a thoughtful paper on the physical geography of the Great Indian Desert, in which he comes to the conclusions, that, in very recent geographical times, the Ran of Kach was part of an inlet of the sea, which certainly extended for a considerable distance up the eastern edge of the area now occupied by the Indus alluvium, and perhaps occupied the whole alluvial area of the Indus Valley; that the central portion of the desert about Jaysalmer and Balmur was not covered by the sea, but formed either an island or a promontory, and that the sand of the desert is mainly derived from the old seacoast, and its transport into the interior of the country is due to the south-west wind.

The navigation of the Narmadá was for many years an important geographical problem, and several enterprising officers undertook expeditions for its solution. The most difficult part of the passage, that between Chikaldá and Broach, was attempted by Captain Capt Fenwick. 1849 Fenwick in 1849, who had in the previous year shown the river to be navigable without very serious difficulty from the Falls of Dhári to the Huanphal

### § 6 — *Afghanistan and Central Asia*

In 1832, Lieutenant (afterwards Sir A.) Burnes, accompanied by Dr Gerard, set out on his memorable journey to Bokhara. Then

A Burnes  
1832-33

letters giving accounts of their trip appeared in the pages of the *Journal*; and Burnes wrote a glowing description of the city of Bokhara, its people, and its sights.

In 1834, W. H. Wathen, Persian Secretary to the Bombay Government, contributed a Memoir on the Usbek State of Khokand (ancient Fergháná); and three years later G. J. Vigne

W A Wathen.  
1834

G J Vigne  
1837

gave an account of the valley of Ghazuri and Cabul

Captain E. Conolly contributed in 1840 a sketch of the physical geography of Seistan, in which he describes the physical features of the country, and remarks upon its flora, fauna, soil, climate, &c. In the following year the journal kept by him while travelling in Seistan was published His

E Conolly.  
1840-41

brother, Captain A. Conolly, who was despatched on a mission to Khorassan, wrote an able Memoir on the country, which was communicated to the Society by the Political Secretariat

A. Conolly.  
1841

Mr. Gardiner was for many years a traveller in Central Asia. The journals kept by him were lent to Sir A. Burnes in Cabul, and were partly destroyed during the Cabul disasters. Such portions as were recovered were edited by Mr. M. P. Edgeworth, a most energetic member of the Society. They contain, amongst other valuable matter, notes on the sources of the Oxus.

Mr Gardiner and  
M P Edgeworth.  
1853.

Major Raverty has furnished the *Journal* with many excellent papers on the geography of Afghanistan and Central Asia. The volume for 1857 contains three papers by him—one on the mountainous district forming the western boundary of the Lower Deráját; another on Kokan, Káshgár, Yáikand,

H G Raverty  
1857-62.

and other countries in Central Asia ; and the third on Káfiisthan. A few years later he contributed an account of the Upper and Lower Seewát and the Kohisthan, to the source of the Seewát river.

The last Afghan War of 1879 added considerably to our

J T Walker and  
J Waterhouse  
1879

knowledge of the geography of Afghan-  
isthan. The officers of the Surveyor-  
General's and Quartermaster-General's

Departments, aided by the Political and Military authorities, zealously carried on the survey operations, an account of which, compiled from their letters and diaries, was prepared by Major Waterhouse, and communicated by General Walker, who has for upwards of twenty years been a most active member of the Society, and materially assisted it in various ways

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## CHAPTER VI.

## ETHNOLOGY.\*

[§ 1 Preliminary    § 2 Tribes of Mongolian or doubtfully Mongolian Affinities — Elliot — C Reynolds — Rawlins — McRae — Walters — Yule — Wilcox — Rowlett — Dalton — Hodgson — A Campbell — O Donel — H Reynolds — Mason    § 3 Kolarians — Tickell — Sherwill — Samuells — Dalton — G Campbell.    § 4. Dravidians — Shan — Dalton — G Campbell ]

§ 1.—*Preliminary.*

INDIA is unquestionably one of the best and most attractive fields for ethnological study. Races and tribes of radically different origin, in various stages of savagery and civilization, and with languages as remote from each other as Hebrew is from English, occupy that vast and extensively varied country. Broadly speaking, they are divisible into two distinctly defined groups—the Aryan and the non-Aryan. More than four thousand years have elapsed since a colony of the former from the Highlands of Central Asia settled on the banks of the Indus and its tributaries. But the settlement of the Aryans would appear to have been preceded by several waves of immigration. The Dravidians, comprising the Gonds, Khonds, Todas, Orions, Males, and the tribes of Southern India, speaking the Cing, Tulu, Canarese, Telugu, Tâmil, and Malayalam dialects, were probably the earliest race that entered India from the North-West; and they probably found the country

already occupied by the aborigines of the Kolarian group—the Kols, Santals, Hos, &c.—whom they possibly drove into the unhealthy jungle-clad hills, where they live, like numberless other tribes of India, as so many fossils of the Pre-historic period. Besides the Diavdians and the Kolarians, there is a heterogeneous mass of other non-Aryan tribes inhabiting the Himálayas, the elevated hilly tracts of Assam and the North-Eastern Frontier, whose affinities have not yet been satisfactorily ascertained, but who would appear to approximate to the Mongolian type, and have been denominated the “Indo-Chinese”

### § 2 — *Mongolian or doubtfully Mongolian Tribes.*

Mr John Eliot was the first European to travel amongst the Gáros. He was deputed in 1788 to investigate the duties collected on the Gáro Hills, and to secure the good-will of the people who had hitherto known no intercourse with Europeans. The Government had seen that, by good treatment and kindness, the hill tribes could in a large measure be rendered at least peaceable and inoffensive, if not serviceable; and Mr Eliot was given some scarlet cloth to be distributed amongst the people. His intercourse with the Gáros was of a most open nature; and in the third volume of the *Researches* he furnishes a lucid description of their appearance, mode of living, nuptial and funeral ceremonies, &c. The next important account of the people is by Captain

C S Reynolds  
1849

C S. Reynolds, Principal Assistant to the Commissioner of Assam

The earliest notice of the *Kukis* is one in Persian by Mr John Rawlins in the second volume of the *Researches*, translated by Sir W

J Rawlins  
1790

Jones. It treats briefly of the manners, religion, and laws

of the people. The next account, contributed by Dr. J. McRae of Chittagong, is much fuller. J. McRae 1801. The information embodied in it was obtained from a native of Rángamá, who had long resided among the Kukis as their captive. They are all described as hunters and warriors, divided into a number of distinct tribes, totally independent of each other, but all admitting more or less the authority of three different Rájás. The great similarity of the *Mag* and *Kuki* languages, many words being common to both, is pointed out; and the character, food, funeral ceremonies, religious belief, &c., of the people described.

It was in 1826 that the attempt to open direct communication between Assam and Silhet brought H Walters 1832 the officers of the British Government into contact with the *Khásiás*. They were first properly brought to the notice of the civilized world in a paper by Mr. H. Walters, published in the seventeenth volume of the *Researches*. He describes them as a stout, athletic race, fairer than the inhabitants of the plains, devoted to chewing *pán*, and fond of spirituous drink. He notices those singular stone monuments (*cromlechs*) formed of large stone slabs, supported by upright stones set on end, which form such a characteristic feature in the Khási hills, specially about Nanklo, and saw the urns with the ashes which had been deposited in them after cremation. Colonel Yule visited the Khási hills about 1844, and contributed a Memoir on the country and its people, whose physiognomy, food, arts, laws, festivals, amusements, government, religious belief, astriological notions and local traditions are described in detail. He also notices the *cromlechs* which he saw in great profusion.

Wileox's admirable Memoir on Assam contains numerous notices of the tribes he met with, such as the *Khámris*, the *Abors*, the *Mishms*, &c. The last-mentioned tribe, who inhabit the mountainous country on the extreme north-eastern frontier of Assam, is noticed at length by Lieutenant (afterwards Colonel) Rowlatt, who penetrated to the Du and up that river, in a northerly direction, to the village of Tnppang, in a letter to Major F. Jenkins, then Governor-General's Agent, N-E Frontier, communicated to the Society by the Government of India.

The custom, religion, language, &c., of the *Abors* and *Mishms* were admirably treated by Colonel Dalton in a communication which was published in the fourteenth volume of the *Journal*.

Mr. Hodgson, the well-known naturalist and orientalist, contributed a number of ethnological articles in which the languages of the *Singphos*, *Mithan Nágis*, *Tablung Nágis*, *Khuri Nágis*, *Angami Nágis*, and various other aboriginal tribes are elaborately compared. From the Himalayan region, to which his personal observations were specially directed, to the island of Ceylon, and from the extreme eastern frontier of Assam to the westernmost limit of India, the aborigines were studied by him with that ability and devotion which characterized him in all his pursuits. His ethnological researches, which extend over a quarter of a century, and amount to twenty-one articles, began with the people of Népál and its vicinity, but gradually included the aborigines of the north-eastern frontier, of the Nilgiris, of Central India, &c. In 1849, he gave an intensely interesting account of the *Kácháris* (or Bodo) and *Dhimals*, who mainly occupy the malarious forest belt extending from 25°



to 27° North Lat., and from 88° to 93½° East Long.,\* the Dhimals being restricted to the most westerly part of this region—the sál forest lying between the Konki and the Dhorlá.†

Dr. Campbell, Superintendent of Dárjiling, who was one of our most energetic contributors, furnished accounts of the *Lepchás* of Sikkim, and of the *Limbú* and other hill tribes.

Mr. O'Donel, Revenue Surveyor of Arácán, and the Hon. H. J. Reynolds, our present President, contributed a few notes on Some Tribes of the Eastern Frontier, viz, the *Khumis*, the *Kís*, the *Khyens*, and the *Tipperahs* (or *Kukís*). The last-mentioned people are described by Mr. Reynolds as distinct from the *Kukís* of Chittagong. The majority resemble the *Khásíás*, having strongly marked Mongolian features. Mr. Reynolds was "struck with the fair complexions of many of them, scarcely darker than a swarthy European."

The Rev. Dr. Mason has minutely described the *Kárens*, who are scattered over Burma and Siam through nine degrees of latitude and eight degrees of longitude. Though small in stature, they are well proportioned, with complexion similar to that of the Chinese, and the hair straight, coarse, and usually very black. The head is pyramidal; the breadth of the face across the cheek bones wider than across the temple; and the nose is much depressed. The face is lozenge-shaped, and the type of the countenance, Mongolian.

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\* The meridional limits, according to Colonel Dalton, might be put much further apart—"Ethnology of Bengal," p 84

† The *Kooch*, who are also noticed in the paper in question, apparently as related to the Bodos and Dhimals, are believed by Dalton to be a branch of the Bhuijá family, whom he classes with the Dravidian



short, well-made, and active man, quiet, inoffensive, and cheerful; with the thick lips, high cheekbones, and spread nose of the Bhils and Kols; beardless or nearly so; intelligent, obliging, and timid. "The Santhál is an industrious cultivator of the soil, and as he is unfettered with caste, he enjoys existence in a far greater degree than does his neighbour, the priest-ridden and caste-crushed Hindu."

Mr. Piddington contributed a memorandum to the twenty-fourth volume of the *Journal* on two individuals of an unknown forest race, supposed to occupy the jungles south of Pálámáo.

H. Piddington.  
1855

Mr. Samuells of the Bengal Civil Service, Superintendent of the Tributary Máhals of Catak, considered them as probably *Patuás* or *Juángás*, who are found in the states of Dhekenal and Keonjhar, and who were noticed by him in a paper accompanied by interesting sketches. They are described as diminutive, and seemingly weak, with broad face, flat nose, and wide nostrils. The sole garment of the women consists of two large bunches of leaves, hence the name of the tribe, *Patuá*, or "leaf-bearing."\*

Colonel Dalton, late Commissioner of Chotá Nágpur, who had long been engaged in ethnological researches in Aṣṣam and Chotá Nágpur, gave an account of a tour in Bonai, Gangpur, Udayapur, and Sirgújá, in which he described the *Korwas* found in Jushpur, as well as in the wildest parts of Sirgújá, and the mountainous country intervening between this last-named place and Pálámáo, and akin to the Santháls, the Bhumijs, and the Mundás of Chotá Nágpur; the *Birbors*.

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\* "The Juángs," observes Colonel Dalton, "are in habits and customs the most primitive people I met with or read of"—*Ethnology of Bengal*, p 153

(literally foresters), a nomadic tribe of limited numerical strength, the *Kauris*, scattered through the jungles of Chattisgar, Udayapur, Singujá, &c, and claiming descent from the Kurus of Kuru Pándava fame, but characterized by Colonel Dalton as one of the ugliest races he had ever met with—dark, coarse-featured, wide mouthed, broad-nosed, and thick-lipped; the *Bogthás* of Singujá; and also several tribes with Dravidian affinities to be noticed in the next section.

In 1866, Colonel Dalton communicated an excellent account of the non-Aryan population of Chotá Nágpur, the so-called 'Kols'. In addition to the Kolarian tribes mentioned above, he noticed the *Kharuás*, closely allied to the Juáangs, and most abundant on the banks of the southern Koel river, the source of the Bráhmam, into which they throw the ashes of their dead, and which they venerate, much as the Santháls do the Dámúda; the *Patuás* or *Juáangs* first noticed by Samuells; the *Bhumij*, a ramification of the Mundás, whose home is in Dhalbhum (or Ghassilla), but who form the majority of the population in all the estates of the Mánbhum district to the south of the Kassae river, and are also found in Keonjhar and Mohurbhanj, and the *Mundás*, most nearly related to the Hos or Laikakols of Kolehan. These latter are described as "the nucleus of the Moondah nation, the most compact, the purest, most powerful, and most interesting division of the whole race, and in appearance decidedly the best looking. In then erect carriage and fine manly bearing the Hos look like a people that have maintained and are proud of their independence. . . . . The inhabitants of the imperfectly reclaimed hill forests are more savage-looking, but they seldom deteriorate to the almost simian physiognomy that the Oráons are found with under similar circumstances "

At a meeting of the Natural History Committee, held on the 11th of February, 1862, Mr A. Grote, then President of the Society, made a proposal for bringing together collections of crania illustrative of the various peoples inhabiting India and the adjacent countries; and a circular letter was issued soliciting the co-operation of members and others towards this object.\* Some skulls were sent by Colonel Dalton, Colonel Tytler, and others in response to this call. But the number was small, and leisured men competent to work them out were wanting. In December, 1865,† Dr. J. Fayrer submitted to the Society a proposal for a grand Ethnological Exhibition in Calcutta, which would afford the anthropologist an opportunity for the systematic study of the various races of the Old World. The idea was cordially approved of by the Society, and a Committee, consisting of Dr. Fayrer, Mr. A. Grote, Dr. D. B. Smith, Mr. W. L. Heeley, Dr. J. Anderson, and Dr. S. B. Partridge, was appointed to carry it out. But there were difficulties in the way; the plan was found impracticable and was ultimately abandoned. In the meantime, however, the Government of India had, at the request of the Council of the Society, called on the local authorities to furnish reports on the tribes found within their respective jurisdictions. Colonel Dalton, who had utilized the splendid opportunities afforded to him of making ethnological investigations in various parts of Assam and Chotá Nágpur, was selected to edit the reports. But the material contained in these was found to be very insufficient, and Colonel Dalton proposed "to draw up an account of the tribes in Bengal from all available sources of information." The proposal was warmly received by the Society, and the Council gave

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\* *Proceedings*, 1865, p. 168† *Proceedings*, 1866, p. 82

Colonel Dalton all the assistance in their power. The result was the publication in 1872 of a handsomely illustrated quarto volume—"The Ethnology of Bengal."

When the Government of India, at the suggestion of our Society, consented to call upon its officers in all parts of India to submit lists of the races and tribes found in the various districts, Sir George (then Mr. Justice) Campbell, with a view to assist the collation of such data, drew up a capital general account of the Ethnology of India. He had made careful notes during his visits to the Panjáb frontier, to the Bombay Presidency, and to the Mysur country, and had taken a most prominent part in the anthropological discussions at the Society. His inquiries were directed to the peculiarities in physical appearance, language, religion, laws, manners, and mental characteristics presented by the various peoples of India. These are classed by him as—

- 1 Aborigines
- 2 Modern Indians.
- 3 Borderers.

Under the first head, Sir George Campbell described the Southern or Dravidian tribes, the Northern or Kolarian tribes, the tribes of Western India, the tribes under the Himálayas, and the *Bhuiyás* of the Bengal Borders. The second division includes the *Bráhmans*, the *Játs*, the *Rápputs*, the *Kurmis*, some Punjab tribes, the Mahomedan settlers, pastoral tribes (*Gujars*, *Ahirs*, &c.), the *Máls* and others, the *Kshatriyas*, the *Beniás* and other trading tribes, the *Káyas-thas* and other winter tribes, the artisans, and the inferior helot classes, and some tribes of the South. The third class comprises the *Tumens* or Islanders, the *Mophlás*, the tribes of the Bombay coasts, the *Sindhis*, the *Beluchis*, the *Pátháns* or *Afgháns*, the aboriginal Arians of the Caucasus, the mixed tribes of the Thibetan frontier, and the tribes of the Eastern frontier.

§ 3.—*The Dravidians.*

The *Málers* or *Páháris* (hillmen) of the Rájwáhál hills were first noticed by Lieutenant T Shaw, whose account, though written nearly ninety years ago, is still the only authority on that interesting tribe, the northernmost known fragment of the great Dravidian race.

T Shaw.  
1795

In his account of a tour in Bonai, Gangpur, Udayapur, and Sirgújá, Colonel Dalton noticed the *Bhuiyás*,\* an interesting and widely-spread tribe, being found in Bhágálpur, Bibár, Dinájpur, &c. ; the Jushpur *Oráons*, extremely ugly, "with foreheads 'villainous low,' flat noses, and projecting maxillaries," approaching "the negro in physiognomy much closer than do their brethren in Chotá Nágpur ;" and the *Gaurs*, completely hinduized in Sirgújá and Udayapur, but considered by Colonel Dalton as affined to the *Gonds*. The *Oráons* were treated of more at length in Colonel Dalton's paper on the 'Kols' of Chotá Nágpur.

E T Dalton  
1865-66.

Sir George Campbell, in his excellent handbook on the Ethnology of India, describes various Dravidian tribes.

G Campbell  
1866

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\* The *Bhuiyas* form an important constituent of the population of Singbhum. Their ethnological relations have not yet been satisfactorily settled. They are affiliated to the Dravidians by Colonel Dalton.

## CHAPTER VII

## CHEMISTRY \*

[§ 1 Preliminary    § 2 Calcutta Water-supply, &amp;c — Waldie — Pedler ]

§ 1.—*Preliminary*

THERE are important branches of Geology and Biology, which are best and most profitably studied in the field; and Geography is pre-eminently a subject for out-door work. In a country, parts of which are even now but little explored, anyone with a little general culture and some amount of observational power can, with a few simple, inexpensive, and easily portable appliances, make material additions to our knowledge of these subjects; and not a few of the contributions we have reviewed hitherto, important as they are, are of this preliminary nature. It is far otherwise with Chemistry. That is a subject which can be prosecuted only in the laboratory. In India, until recently, there have been but few laboratories worth the name, and we have had but few competent men with leisure to devote to lengthened chemical research. Under these circumstances, our Chapter of Chemistry at the Asiatic Society is near being as brief as the proverbial Chapter on Snakes in Ireland.

§ 2 — *Calcutta Water-supply, &c.*

Mr Waldie, one of our oldest and most zealous members, made between 1866 and 1867 an extensive series of observations on the

D Waldie  
1866—

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\* See Index, p lxxxiii.



water of the Hugli at Calcutta, the results of which, communicated to the Society, went to show that the water of that river was the purest that could be obtained—a conclusion that was at first controverted, but the correctness of which has since been confirmed. In 1873, Mr. Waldie contributed a paper “On the Muddy-water of the Hugli during the rainy season, with reference to its purification and to the Calcutta Water-supply,” in which the causes of the difficulties attending filtration were examined and explained.\*

Mr. Pedler, Professor of Chemistry at the Presidency

A Pedler  
1878

College, Calcutta, has been a most active member † In 1876, he contributed a

note on the use of the Radiometer as a Photometer, published in the *Proceedings* for that year. Mr Crookes, the well-known Physicist, had, in a paper which appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of Science* for July 1875, come to the conclusion that the radiometer is a perfect photometer. Mr. Pedler instituted a series of experiments to test the validity of this conclusion, with the result that he could not speak with great confidence of the radiometer as a photometer. In 1880, he read a paper on the Water-supplies of Calcutta. The first part of it is devoted to the consideration of the quantity and quality of the old supply which existed before the introduction of the present hydrant water. As for the quantity, Mr. Pedler's researches led him to conclude that, at the time when Calcutta depended for its water-supply on its tanks and wells, the inhabitants must have used the same water over and over again,

though of course without knowing it. The state of affairs as to quality was even worse. Of the two hundred samples of Calcutta tank and well waters examined, Mr. Pedler found 44 per cent. were true sewages, 22 per cent diluted sewages, 20 per cent contaminated with considerable quantities of sewage, 9 per cent "dirty waters," and about 4 per cent only moderately safe waters. The second part of the paper dealt with the present water-supply of Calcutta, which consists of the Hugli water pumped from the river at Paltá, where it is collected in settling tanks, and after subsidence filtered through sand and supplied to Calcutta. The analysis of the hydrant water led to the result, that the Calcutta water falls just outside the class of waters of "great organic purity," but that it is high in the class of waters of "fair organic purity." In the third division of his long and interesting paper, Mr. Pedler considers the extension of the present water-supply. It is shown by the analytical results, that water collected from within three or four miles of Calcutta would be decidedly impure, and a strong opinion is expressed that the water for the extension of the supply should be collected at Paltá, as has been hitherto done

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## CHAPTER VIII.

## THE MUSEUM.

THE Asiatic Society of Bengal is one of the oldest Scientific Institutions in the world, and is, certainly, the oldest in this country. For nearly three-quarters of a century, its publications were the principal vehicle of information on many subjects of interest and importance in India. But for it, many valuable researches would never have been undertaken, many important papers would never have seen the light. From the days of Colonel Colebrooke and William Lambton, to very recent times, the pages of its *Transactions* were the only source available to the public for authentic information on all interesting operations of the Topographical and Trigonometrical Surveys, and without the channel of publicity afforded by the Society, the results of the important surveys of Lambton, Webb, Hodgson, Herbert, Wilcox, and others would have lain buried among musty piles of official records: some, no doubt, consigned to oblivion, and some, more fortunate, to be rescued moth-eaten and perhaps almost illegible and untestable, years after their usefulness or interest had been partly or entirely lost. The early publication which the Society's *Transactions* secured to the observations of cultured travellers like Moorcroft, Gerard, and Hodgson, in remote parts of India and the adjacent countries, stimulated and helped other explorers; and it is thus that a considerable portion of our

accessions to geographical and ethnological knowledge has been effected. The grand series of the Mammalian Fauna of the Sub-Himálayas, the Narbadá Valley, and Penm Island owe their collection and elucidation, in no small degree, to the warm encouragement and cordial assistance of the Asiatic Society. Falconer, Cautley, Colvin, Baker, DuRand, and Spilsbury were all among the Society's most ardent and energetic contributors. "As I am neither a geologist, nor have the leisure to make myself one," wrote Colvin, "I have obviously no motive for collecting a cabinet myself; I propose, therefore, excavating and collecting for the Museum of the Asiatic Society."\* Previous to the commencement of the publications of the Geological Survey of India, the Society's *Transactions* were the principal channel for communications on Indian geology. The Society has been ever forward in the promotion of any scientific movements that have been set on foot in this country. It was under its superintendence that the boring operations in Calcutta, which revealed the geological structure of Lower Bengal, were conducted; and it was with its help or instrumentality that the investigations of Franklin, Hutton, Csoma de Koros, and of a host of other explorers were carried on.

But one of the most conspicuous and permanent monuments of the Society's work is unquestionably its Museum, which was taken over by the Government some years ago, and which is now located in one of the grandest edifices in the best situation in this city. As early as the 29th of September, 1796, the Society announced their intention of establishing a Museum, and invited donations †. But it was not until the beginning of 1814 that any steps were taken to carry

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\* *Journal*, Vol IV, p 56† *Asiatic Researches*, Vol. VI, pp 591, 593

out that intention. Contributions of animals, plants, minerals, &c., were solicited; and arrangements were made for their reception. By the year 1835, the collections had grown to such dimensions that the services of a paid curator were found necessary; and in May, Dr. J. T. Pearson, of the Bengal Medical Service, was appointed at a salary of Rs. 200 a month. The appointment was renewed in 1836. But in May, 1837, the condition of the Society's finances compelled it to solicit Government aid for the support of the Museum; and the following resolution was passed :—

“That—viewing the maintenance of the Museum as a national object, and calculated to be of immense importance to science if placed upon a footing of efficiency, with a professional Naturalist at the head, directing researches and systematizing informations obtained from various sources, both public and private, in all the branches of Physical Science, but more particularly in regard to the Natural History of British India and Asia at large—it is incumbent on the Society to make a full and urgent representation to Government on the subject, and to solicit such support as is accorded in most other countries to similar institutions of national and scientific utility.”

An application was forwarded to the Court of Directors in accordance with this resolution. It was refused; but on further representation to the Governor-General, a monthly grant to the Museum was authorized, and sanctioned by the Court of Directors in a Despatch dated the 18th September, 1839.

The Society was thus placed in a position to engage the services of a highly competent curator, Edward Blyth, whose work we have noticed in the Chapter on Zoology. His services to the Museum were invaluable, and the

following resolution in recognition of his efforts was unanimously passed by the Society in November, 1864 :—

“ On the eve of transferring the Zoological collections of the Society to Government, to form the nucleus of an Imperial Museum of Natural History, the Society wishes to record its sense of the important services rendered by its late curator, Mr. Blyth, in the formation of the collections. In the period of twenty-two years during which Mr. Blyth was curator of the Society's Museum, he has formed a large and valuable series of specimens richly illustrative of the Ornithology of India and the Burmese Peninsula, and has added largely to the Mammalian and other Vertebrate collections of the Museum ; while, by his numerous descriptive papers and catalogues of the Museum specimens, he has made the materials thus amassed by him subservient to Zoological Science at large, and especially valuable to those engaged in the study of the Vertebrate Fauna of India and its adjoining countries ”\*

In the meantime the Society had become the custodian of an important series of Geological and Palæontological collections which had been yearly growing in richness ; but before the year 1839, these latter appear to have suffered much from neglect, and were in almost chaotic confusion. In that year, at the December meeting, the then ‘Committee of Papers’ submitted a Report on the Museum, in which it is stated, “ that the first object of the Society in remodelling its Museum should be to form a grand collection of minerals and fossils, illustrative of the Geology, Geography, and Palæontology of our British Indian possessions. A few of the existing minerals and some superb fossils in our Museum are

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\* *Journal* Vol XXXIII, p 582 For an account of the transfer of the Society's Collections to Government, see *Calcutta Review*, Vol. XLIII (1866), p 427

In 1840, the Geological and Palæontological collections were separated from the rest under the appellation of the Museum of Economic Geology, which began to thrive under the care of Mr Piddington, who then officiated as Curator. On Mr. Blyth taking charge of the Curator's office early in September, 1841, Mr. H. Torrens, Secretary of the Society, wrote asking him to take special care of the new Museum. In his reply dated the 22nd September, 1841, Mr. Blyth said :

“It is in the Mineralogical Department, unfortunately, that I am at present less qualified by previous study to devote my immediate and first labours advantageously for the Society.”

In 1842, the Society succeeded in securing a separate Government grant for the Museum of Economic Geology, to which Mr. Piddington was appointed curator. The Museum grew under the custody of the Society until 1856, when the Government portion of the collection was trans-

\* *Journal*, Vol. VIII (1890) p. 104. The Paper is signed by Sir Edw. and Prof. President of the Society, Mr H. I. Price, p. Vice-President, Messrs W. P. Croft, H. Torres, J. C. C. Smith, J. Ward, W. B. O'Shaughnessy, David Harcourt, Col. D. McLeod, Dr D. Stewart, Sir H. W. S. Jones, Major W. H. Forth, and Dr S. Wulrich.

ferred to the newly-established Museum in connection with the Geological Survey of India. The Society's own collections of Geology and Mineralogy were also asked for, but were refused. A careful inquiry into the condition of the Museum, its growing importance, and the poor accommodation available in their building had impressed the Society with the necessity for the institution of a grand public Museum in Calcutta, to which the whole of the Society's collection might be transferred under certain restrictions as any partial transfer would probably have been detrimental to the accomplishment of this noble object. Negotiations were opened by the Council of the Society with the Government on the subject, which terminated in the establishment of the present Indian Museum, the Society offering to make over its collections on the condition that a suitable building should be erected and that the collections should be placed under the management of a body of Trustees, which conditions were carried out and legally instituted by Act XVII of 1866.

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# CLASSIFIED INDEX

TO THE

## SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

IN THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS

FROM 1788 TO 1882.

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SPECIAL CENTENARY MEETING  
OF THE  
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL.

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A Special Meeting to celebrate the Hundredth Anniversary of the First Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was held in the Society's Rooms, on Tuesday, the 15th January, 1884, at 7-30 P.M.

The HON'BLE H J REYNOLDS, B A , C S , President, in the Chair

The following six gentlemen, duly proposed by the Council at the last Ordinary Meeting of the Society, were unanimously elected Special Centenary Honorary Members —

1 JAMES PRESCOT JOULE, LL D , F R S , discoverer of the laws of the evolution of heat, of the induction of magnetism by electric currents, of the mechanical equivalent of heat, and the originator of the kinetic theory of gases , presented by the Royal Society in 1850 with its medal, and in 1870 with the Copley medal, for his experimental researches on the dynamical theory of heat

2 DR ERNST HAECKEL, Professor in the University of Jena, for his morphological and embryological discoveries, and his many valuable papers on the Medusæ and other forms of sea and fresh-water animals

3 CHARLES MELDRUM, M A , F R S , F R A S , Port Louis, Mauritius, on account of his valuable researches into the meteorology of the Indian Ocean

4 A H SAYCE, Deputy Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Oxford, on account of his distinguished services to Comparative Philology generally, and especially to the knowledge of the Assyrian, Accadian, and Hittite languages

5. E. SENART, Member of the Institute of France, on account of his distinguished services to Pali Scholarship, especially in the decipherment of the ancient inscriptions of Asoka, and in editing Pāli and Gāthā texts.

6. MONIER WILLIAMS, Boden Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Oxford and founder of the Indian Institute in the same University, on account of his distinguished services to the interests, literary and social, of India, and his valuable grammatical and lexicographic contributions to Sanskrit Philology.

The Review of the Society's History and Researches during the century of its existence, drawn up by the Secretaries and Dr Rajendralāl Mitra, was laid upon the table. A vote of thanks to the Compilers of the Review was unanimously passed.\*

The following addresses from learned Societies, congratulating the Society on the celebration of its Centenary, were read.—

C F

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### I.

ROYAL PRUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

*An die Asiatische Gesellschaft von Bengalen zum XV. Januar*

*MDCCCLXXXVII*

Berlin, 6th December, 1883

GEFHRTE HERRN!

Am 15ten Januar 1784 gegründet, feiert Ihre Gesellschaft am Beginn des nächsten Jahres ihr 100jähriges Bestehen.

Als die älteste aller zur Zeit vorhandenen morgenländischen Gesellschaften, steht sie an der Spitze jener glorreichen Entwicklung der orientalischen Studien, welche wir der Kenntniss des Sanskrit verdanken.

Wenn die europäische Gesittung unter dem Schutze der britischen Herrschaft im Laufe dieses Jahrhunderts reichen Segen über Indien gebracht hat, so hat in umgekehrter Richtung während dieses Zeitraumes auch Indien seinerseits durch seine Sprache und Literatur tiefgreifende Wirkungen auf Europa ausgeübt. Es mochte wenige Gebiete der historischen und der sprachlichen Wissenschaft geben, welche von dem Einfluss der Sanskritstudien ganzlich unberührt geblieben waren. Das Sanskrit hat uns eine indogermanische Urzeit erschlossen, — eine vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft entstehen lassen, — hat das alte Perien uns aufgethan,

und die geistigen Denkmäler Zarathustra's sowohl wie die steinernen der Aehnnehmenden eröffnet, — hat endlich von da uns dann weiter noch die alten Culturländer, Babylon und Assyrien, aus dem Todesschlaf ihrer Keilschriften wiedererweckt und zum Reden gebrächt

Von diesen in ihrer Bedeutung annoch unabsehbaren Folgen der Erschliessung des Sanskrit konnten allerdings die Männer, welche als die Pioniere dieser Studien dastehen, konnten Ihre Jones, Wilkins, Colebrooke, Wilson nur erst einen Theil bereits ahnen Ihr Streben war Indien speciell zugeordnet Aber ihre Arbeiten haben dennoch weithin befruchtend und schöpferisch gewirkt

Eine grosse Vergangenheit liegt hinter Ihnen — Dass aber auch Sie, Ihrer Väter werth, die Erforschung Indiens, seiner Sprache und Literatur, als ein kostbares Erbe betrachten, das Sie immer aufs Neue zu "erwerben" suchen, "um es würdig zu besitzen," dafür legt, neben Ihrem noch den Naturwissenschaften reiche Ausbeute bietenden Journal, die Bibliotheca Indica ein vollgültiges Zeugniß ab, jene grossartige Text-Publication, welche, seit nunmehr 35 Jahren unter Ihrer Aegide erscheinend, die wichtigsten literarischen Erzeugnisse des indischen Geistes der Wissenschaft allgemein zugänglich zu machen bestimmt ist

• Die Königlich Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften hat in Wilhelm von Humboldt und in Franz Bopp zwei Männer zu ihren Mitgliedern gezählt, welche die hohe Bedeutung des Sanskrit in ihrem vollen Werthe erkannten und auch bei uns zu allgemeiner Anerkennung zu bringen nach Kräften bemüht waren. Bopp besonders kann, wie er als der Begründer der vergleichenden Sprachforschung dasteht, so auch geradezu als der Vater der Sanskritstudien in Deutschland betrachtet werden, die seitdem daselbst eine feste Stätte gefunden haben

Im Hinblick auf diese ihre beiden hervorragenden Mitglieder erkennt es daher die Königl. Akademie als eine besondere Ehrenpflicht, Ihnen geehrte Herren, zu dem bevorstehenden Ehrentage Ihrer Gesellschaft den Tribut dankbarer Anerkennung und Huldigung darzubringen Möge der Geist, in dem sie begründet wurde, auch in dem neuen Saeculum in ihr fortdauernd in voller Wirksamkeit bleiben !

Die Königlich Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften.

(Sd)	E CURTIUS	(Sd)	WEBER.
,,	E DU BOIS-REYMOND	,,	ZELLER
,,	TH MOMMSEN	,,	WATTENBACH.
,,	A AUWERS	,,	LANDOLT
,,	DIELS	,,	EICHLER

(Sd.)	SCHRADER.	(Sd )	V HELMHOLTZ.
„	WEBER	„	SIMMENS.
„	F KIRCHHOFF	„	TOBLER.
„	EWALD	„	A KIRCHHOFF.
„	SCHWENDENFR	„	RUD VIRCHOW.
„	BEYRIOH	„	LEPSIUS
„	A W. HOFMANN.	„	KIEPERT.
„	ROTH	„	G WAITZ
„	KRONECKER	„	SYBEL
„	HERM MUNK	„	DILLMANN.
„	TRINGSHEIM		

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## II

### FROM THE GERMAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY, HALLE

Der Asiatischen Gesellschaft von Bengalen, welche während der hundert Jahre ihres Bestehens die ihr von ihrem grossen Begründer Sir William Jones gestellte Aufgabe, die Geschichte, die Künste und Wissenschaften, und die Literatur Asiens zu erforschen, glanzend erfüllt und dadurch den Dank aller orientalischen Philologen sich verdient hat, der ältesten Asiatischen Gesellschaft widmet die aufrichtigsten Glückwünsche zu ihrem Jubiläum am XV. Januar MDCCCLXXXIV die Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft

#### Der geschäftsführende Vorstand

(Sd )	DR CHR BARTHOLOMAE	(Sd )	DR JULIUS WELLHAUSEN.
„	DR LUDOLF KREHL IN LEIPZIG	„	DR ERNST WINDISCH IN LEIPZIG HALLE A. S.

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## III

### ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY,

22, ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON, W.,

*December 20, 1883.*

SIR,

The Council of the Royal Asiatic Society having heard that their Parent Society, the Asiatic Society of Bengal, are about to celebrate, on

the 15th January, 1884, the Centenary of their Foundation, desire to offer to the Council and Members of the Society their heartiest congratulations on this auspicious occasion

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) H B E FRERE, *President, R A S*  
 , W S W VAUX, *Secretary, R A S*

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE BENGAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

IV

ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR THE PHILOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY,  
 AND ETHNOLOGY OF NETHERLANDS INDIA  
 THE HAGUE (HOLLAND),

18th December, 1883

GENTLEMEN,

On the 15th of January, 1884, the Asiatic Society of Bengal will have to commemorate a glorious past. The century so splendidly inaugurated by the researches of Sir William Jones and Henry Thomas Colebrooke, and so remarkable by the discoveries and labours of John Prinsep, Horace Hayman Wilson, Brian Haughton Hodgson and so many other illustrious names, has been fruitful in results more striking and marvellous than the fairy tales of the East. By steadily promoting and encouraging scientific research in every direction, your Society has earned the thanks of scholars in general, and especially of those who have devoted themselves to Oriental studies.

As representatives of a Society which for many years has stood in friendly relations with yours, we beg to offer our sincere congratulations for the memorable day of 15th January. We rejoice at the flourishing condition and unabated vigour of the centenarian, and we hope that the future may be as bright and glorious as the past.

(Signed) H KERN,

*President of the Royal Institute  
 for the Philology, Geography, and  
 Ethnology of Netherlands India*

P C L WIJNMALLN,

*Secretary*



DIREKTION DES KÖNIGL. ZOOLOGISCHEN UND DES ANTHROPOLOGISCH-  
ETHNOGRAPHISCHEN MUSEUMS ZU DRESDEN

*The 20th December, 1883*

To

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL,

CALCUTTA

The Society's Centenary induces me to give expression to the most cordial and sincere wishes from the part of the Royal Museum of Dresden and to the hope that the Society may flourish in all future as hitherto, and may increase in influence and importance to science

The Director of the Royal Zoological, Anthropological and Ethnographical Museum,

(Signed) A. B. MEYER, M D

The occasion was further celebrated by a dinner immediately after the meeting, at which the following were present —

GUESTS

H E the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.C., Viceroy and Governor-General of India

H W Parnose, Esq., Private Secretary to H E the Viceroy

Capt E H Clough-Taylor, Aide-de-Camp to H E the Viceroy.

His Grace Archbishop Goethals

The Hon'ble Lieut-General T. F. Wilson, C.B., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Sir Stuart Bayley, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble C P Ilbert, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble W W Hunter, LL.D., C.I.E.

Prof Monier Williams, C.I.E., D.O.L.

MEMBERS

The Hon'ble H J Reynolds, B.A., O.S., *President, in the Chair*

The Hon'ble J Gibbs, C.S.I., C.I.E., F.R.G.S., M.R.A.S., *Vice-President*

H B Medlicott, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., F.G.S., Dr D Waldie, F.R.S., J Westland, Esq., O.S., Nawab Abdul Latif Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., Major J Waterhouse,

\* This address was received subsequently to the meeting, and was read at the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Society in February

n s c , Alex Pedler, Esq , i c s , A W Croft, Esq M A , *Members of Council*. Dr A F R Hoernle, *Philological Secretary* L de Nicéville, Esq , *Offg Natural History Secretary* F W Peterson, Esq , i c s , *Honorary Treasurer* Dr H W McCann, *General Secretary* Sayyid Amir Ali M A , Barrister-at-Law , Dr J Anderson, F R S , F L S , E F T Atkinson, Esq , M A , c s , Nawab Sayyid Ashgar Ali Diler Jang, Khan Bahadur, c s i , Dr R A Barker, Rev K M Bannerjee, LL D , Dr A Barclay R R Bayne, Esq , M R I A , the Hon'ble H Beverley, M A c s J F Browne, Esq , c s , M A s , Surgeon-Major H Cayley, Dr Aghorenath Chatterjee, J Cockburn, Esq , J C Douglas, Esq , J Elliot, Esq , M A , F Fedden, Esq , Prince Mahomed Fuzk Shih, Monmohun Ghose, Esq , Raja Satyananda Ghoshal, G A Grierson, Esq , M A , c s , Behanlal Gupta, Esq , c s , J Hart, Esq . Surgeon-Major C J J Jackson, Moulvie Kabiruddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur, P Kennedy, Esq , M A , Dr G King, F L S , Rev Father Lafont, O R I , Major-General G B Manwaring, s c , Babu Jadnial Mullick, the Hon'ble A B Miller, J R Napier, Esq , A M Nash, Esq , M A , J C Parker, Esq , T F Pepié, Esq , Col W F Prideaux, n s c , Bibu Bipin Chander Rai, B L , Dr W Schlich, Dr Mohendralal Sirkar Lieut-Col Sir O B St John, F R S , c s i , J Schaumburg, Esq , Lieut-Col A C Toker, n s c , R Turnbull, Esq , Prince Jahru , Qadr Muhammad Wahid Ali Bahadur, Dr G Watt, W T Webb, Esq M A

After dinner, the following toasts were proposed and speeches delivered —

The PRESIDENT said —The first toast on our list, as the first in our hearts, is one which needs no words of recommendation from me. Wherever her subjects, whether English or native, are gathered together, the health of the Queen-Empress is received with an acclamation in which we combine the tribute due to every excellence which can adorn womanhood with the homage which we gladly pay to the virtues of the Sovereign. But it seems to me that the occasion on which we are assembled to-night is one to which this toast is specially appropriate. The founder of our Society declared that its enquiries should extend, within the limits of Asia, to whatever is performed by man, or produced by nature. Nothing within those limits is more wonderful or stupendous than the mighty Empire which has been built up by the succession of statesmen and warriors whom England has sent forth to establish in India the blessing of peace, the supremacy of law, and the development of material wealth. The pole-star of that Empire is the gracious Lady whom we trust Providence

may long preserve to rule over us, and whose name we welcome with no mere conventional loyalty of the lips, but with the devotion of our hearts and the service of our lives. The toast I give you is the health of the Queen-Empress.

The PRESIDENT then proposed the next toast as follows.—Gentlemen, the next toast I have to propose is the health of Her Majesty's representative in this land, the Viceroy and Governor-General. In the name of the Society, I beg to thank His Excellency for honouring our Centenary celebration with his presence to-night. The Asiatic Society has owed much to the encouragement and fostering care of the rulers of India. Though we are proud to claim Sir William Jones as our founder, it would ill-become us to forget that his efforts for the establishment of our Society were supported, and eventually rendered successful, by the assistance which he received from the first Governor-General of India. Since the days of Warren Hastings, successive Governors-General have extended to the Society the same favour as he showed to it. Some of them, among whom I may name Sir John Shore and the Marquis of Hastings, have filled the presidential chair, and all of them have accepted the office of patron of the Society. This patronage of the Society by the head of the Government has been, I believe, creditable and beneficial to both the parties concerned in it, and in our present Patron we are glad to welcome a nobleman who has not only won distinction as a statesman and a ruler, but who is honourably known by the interest he has taken in education, both in England and in this country.

HIS EXCELLENCY the VICEROY said.—Mr President and Gentlemen, I thank you sincerely for the toast which you have just drunk. I thank you, Mr President, for the terms in which you have proposed, and you, gentlemen, for the reception which you have accorded to it. I can assure you that it is a great pleasure to me to be present here this evening, and thus to mark the strong interest which I feel in the prosperity of this Society. The occasion which has brought us together to-night is one which must command the sympathy of all who care for Oriental literature and learning, for we are assembled here to-day to celebrate the Centenary of a Society which has for its special object the promotion of the study of Asiatic languages, literature, history and science. England may be called the home of societies. They spring up there of every kind and for every conceivable purpose. Some of them are extremely ephemeral, and are born to-day to die to-morrow, and but few of them can count a hundred years of life. The fact, therefore, that the Asiatic Society of Bengal has now completed a full hundred years of existence is a proof



Eastern learning which has of late been given to it by learned men of all countries, this Society has received no check, and continues to preserve the respect of all who are acquainted with its labours. And now, gentlemen, I am about, I fear, to commit what may be considered an unpardonable sin in an after-dinner speaker, but I trust to you to forgive me if I yield to the strong temptation which prompts me to read to you an extract from the words of one whose memory must be foremost in our recollections to-night. There is no name that could come before us on this occasion with the same force of reality as that of Sir William Jones. I was much struck last year in reading the interesting lectures of Professor Max Müller, which were published under the title of "*India and what she has to teach us*," by an account which I found there, given by Sir William Jones himself, of the feelings with which he first landed in this country. I will read you the words, because they are far more eloquent and heart-stirring than any that I could myself command, and because it is well that we should to-night have brought before us the actual thoughts of him whose memory we are met to honour, for, though we are primarily assembled here to celebrate the Centenary of the Society which he has founded, we are here also to mark our veneration of his character and our gratitude for his services. This is what he said of himself when he approached the shores of India when he first came out to this country — "When I was at sea last August" (that is in August 1783) "on my voyage to this country (*India*), which I had long and ardently desired to visit, I found one evening, on inspecting the observations of the day, that *India* lay before us, *Persia* on our left, whilst a breeze from *Arabia* blew nearly on our stern. A situation so pleasing in itself, and to me so new, could not fail to awaken a train of reflections in a mind which had early been accustomed to contemplate with delight the eventful histories and agreeable fictions of this Eastern World. It gave me inexpressible pleasure to find myself in the midst of so noble an amphitheatre, almost encircled by the vast regions of Asia, which has ever been esteemed the nurse of sciences, the inventress of delightful and useful arts, the scene of glorious actions, fertile in the productions of human genius, and infinitely diversified in the forms of religion and government, in the laws, manners, customs, and languages, as well as in the features and complexions of men. I could not help remarking how important and extensive a field was yet unexplored, and how many solid advantages unimproved." It seems to me, gentlemen, that in these glowing words we have the germ of this Society, for within a few months after they had sprung up in the mind of your distinguished

The Asiatic Society of Bengal enters to-night upon the second century of its career, its inaugural meeting having been held on the 15th January, 1784. It was founded in the last year of the rule of Warren Hastings, a time which historians are pleased to describe as a period of comparative tranquillity. The tranquillity may have been comparative, but it was assuredly neither positive nor superlative. In the south we were at war, or had very lately been at war, with Tippoo in Benares, Chyot Singh had just before been deposed. In the west, the Mahratta power was growing into a formidable rival. The rejection of

Fox's India Bill, only a few weeks previously, had hurled the Coalition Ministry from power. It was then that thirty gentlemen, conspicuous among whom were Sir William Jones, Mr Justice Hyde, Sir John Shore, John Hamington, Sir G Barlow, Sir Robert Chambers, Jonathan Duncan, and Sir Charles Wilkins, formed themselves into a Society for the purpose of enquiring into the civil and natural history, the antiquities, arts, sciences, and literature of Asia. They obtained the patronage of the Government, and Warren Hastings was invited to become their President. He declined the honour in favour of Sir William Jones, who filled the chair for ten years till his death in 1794. Then were laid the foundations of that magnificent series of essays and dissertations which are the true glory of our Society, and which, embodied first in the twenty volumes of the Asiatic Researches, and afterwards in the Society's Journal, have thrown a flood of light on the literature, antiquities, and natural history of the East. The torch of knowledge was handed on from one distinguished Orientalist to another. *Uno avulso non deficit alter Aureus.* After Sir William Jones came Colebrooke, Carey, Harington, Horace Hayman Wilson, Bryan Hodgson, James and Henry Prinsep, Henry Torrens, and many others whom time would fail me to enumerate—a galaxy of illustrious names, whose labours more than realized the highest expectations which the founder of the Society had formed. The dignitaries of the English Church showed their sympathy with an institution which is identified with the great continent from which all the religions of the world have sprung. I believe all the Bishops of Calcutta have been members of the Society. Bishop Middleton was our Vice-President in 1816, Reginald Heber in 1824, Daniel Wilson in 1850. The military profession has given us many of our most distinguished members, such as Francis Wilford, Sir Proby Cautley, and Sir Henry Durand, while to the profession of the law we owe our very existence. The service to which I have the honour to belong has taken its full share in the labours and the triumphs of the Society.

It is worthy of notice that, for many years after the establishment of the Society, no natives were enrolled in its ranks. This was assuredly from no narrow or exclusive spirit on the part of its Founder. I find among the rules laid down by Sir William Jones one which declares that “no qualification shall be necessary for membership beyond a love of knowledge and zeal for the promotion of it.” But, from whatever cause it may have happened, no natives seem to have joined the Society for nearly fifty years after its foundation. It is said that some natives were proposed for election in 1818, but the list of 1832 is the earliest in which

I have observed the entry of natives, and in that list I find the honoured name of Dwarka Nath Tigrone. It is probably something more than a coincidence, that, in the year in which native members first joined the Asiatic Society, the patron of the Society was Lord William Bentinck.

Into the history of the Society, during the hundred years of its existence, I need not here enter in detail. A Centenary Review has been drawn up for this occasion by some of the Society's officers, and the first part of that Review, for which we are indebted to the careful research and practised pen of Dr. Rajendrakāla Mitra, gives an excellent summary of the labours, the vicissitudes, and the progress of the Society. We have passed through some periods of trouble and difficulty. On one occasion our whole collection of coins was stolen, and we have twice been sufferers by the failure of our bankers. But, on the whole, the record of the century is a record of development and success. The house in which we are assembled to-night was built for us in 1808, the Museum was formed in 1811. Some of the finest manuscripts in our library were once the property of Tippon Sultan, and were received in 1808 from the Seringsapatam Prize Committee; others were made over to the Society on the abolition of the old College of Fort William. Among the claims which the Society has on the gratitude of the public, may be mentioned its supervision of the publication of the series of Oriental works issued under the title of the Bibliotheca Indica, its labours for the conservation of Sanskrit manuscripts, and last, but assuredly not least, the fact that it was largely due to the Society's exertions that the Government consented to establish the Indian Museum, to which the Society's collections in the departments of archaeology, natural history, and geology were removed a few years ago.

The Society has now lived and laboured for a hundred years, and I have sometimes heard it said that if it has not left its first love, it has in some measure ceased to do its first works. I have known critics point to the illustrious names which adorned its earlier annals, and ask where their successors are to be found at the present day. If there is any ground for this complaint—and when I look at the learning and genius displayed in the volumes of the Asiatic Researches, I am sometimes tempted to doubt whether these critics have not reason on their side—I believe the causes are not very far to seek. It must be remembered in the first place that, when our Society was founded, the treasures of Indian literature and science were almost unknown to European students. The early members of the Asiatic Society were sustained and stimulated by



the excitement of discovery, and by the interest which attaches to the exploration of new and untrodden fields of knowledge. In the second place, the pressure of business, both official and mercantile, is far heavier now than it was then. When Horace Hayman Wilson was leaving India, just half a century ago, the Society presented him with a valedictory address, in his reply to which he said that his labours on behalf of the Society had made many hours of leisure in this country glide happily away. The gliding away, whether happily or otherwise, of many hours of leisure, is a sensation to which we in these days are entire strangers, and if Wilson had left India in 1883 instead of in 1833, he would hardly have found time to elaborate the learned contributions with which he enriched the records of the Society. But another reason remains, which is, perhaps, the strongest of all. In the early part of this century, the author of a paper on any Oriental subject generally gave his thoughts to the world through the medium of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The Society was not only the recognized channel of such communications, but hardly any other channel existed. At present there are numerous societies, numerous magazines and periodicals, through which an audience can be addressed on Oriental questions. If the stream of knowledge may seem to be less deep, it is only because it is more widely diffused, if the treasure appears to be less splendid and massive, it is because it is distributed among a larger number. We take a pardonable pride in the recollection that our Society is the parent institution, from which other Asiatic Societies, both in India and elsewhere, have sprung. The Royal Asiatic Society of London came into existence in 1823, and its first Director was that very Henry Colebrooke who had been President of our Society for nine years, from 1806 to 1815. The Bombay Society was established in 1827, that of Ceylon in 1845. The effect of our Society's labours has been felt far beyond the limits of the British Empire and of the English tongue. We were the pioneers in that field of research in which the scholars of France and Germany have since won such splendid triumphs, and across the Atlantic the stimulus of our investigations has quickened into sympathetic activity the intelligence and industry of the Oriental Societies of the United States.

If, therefore, there were any grounds for saying that the Asiatic Society of the present day is less useful and less energetic than of yore, these considerations would, I think, be sufficient to account for the change. But I am not willing to admit that such an imputation is in any way deserved. On this point I might refer to the addresses which we have received, on the occasion of this Centenary celebration, from the Asiatic

Societies of London, the Hague, Berlin, and Halle. The wording of these addresses will show that, in the opinion of those institutions, the Bengal Society has not ceased to maintain the reputation it formerly enjoyed. It would be presumptuous in me to attempt to balance claims which I can so imperfectly appreciate, and it would not be altogether seemly that I should speak of the merits and achievements of living members of the Society. But those whom I address will know to whom I refer when I say that our present roll of members includes the names of men whose researches in literature, in archæology, in natural history, and in physical science, will bear comparison with those of the giants of a former day. When the next anniversary of this kind comes round, and the Society completes its second century, there are members of the Society now living to whom the men of that age will refer with something of the veneration with which we now pronounce the names of Henry Colebrooke and Horace Hayman Wilson.

I will not venture to look forward to a still more distant future. I will not presume to say that when that artistic personage, the New Zealand traveller, after completing his sketch of the ruins of St Paul's, takes his ticket, by balloon or submarine railway, for India, he will find the Asiatic Society of Bengal still flourishing in undiminished vigour and activity. But I believe that the Society has still before it a long career of usefulness, and that, even if it could be extinguished to-morrow, it would leave behind it much which the world would not willingly let die. It would leave behind it something more precious than its collection of coins and manuscripts, or even than the records in which its history is enshrined. It would leave an example and a remembrance of patient research and self-denying labour, undertaken not from any motive of greed or any desire of glory, but with the single aim of advancing the interests of science, and extending the boundaries of human knowledge. And now, before I sit down, I will ask all present to join me in a toast which ought not to be omitted on such an occasion as this. I give you "The Honoured Memory of our Founder, Sir William Jones."

The Hon'ble Mr Gibbs proposed the last toast as follows — Mr President, Your Excellency, and Gentlemen,—The next toast has been entrusted to my charge. It is one which it is always a pleasure to the hosts to propose and the company to honour, being that of "Our Guests." In the Society which celebrates its hundredth birthday this evening, it has been the practice hitherto to treat its guests with "the feast of reason and the flow of soul," but for its indulging in the more substantial feast of this evening, though we have necessarily no precedent,

we feel we need none, as the exceptional circumstances of the occasion justify an exceptional entertainment

When the Society, therefore, determined that its members should meet and celebrate this auspicious event in the truly English manner we have done, it could not forget that a Society which was formed to enquire, among other subjects, into the literature of Asia, and which by its publications has enabled the Oriental scholars of Europe to acquire the knowledge which was buried in many valuable MSS., was bound to remember the admonitions to be found therein as regards guests and then duty to them. In the well-known Sanscrit law-book, the *Vishnu Smṛiti*, it is thus laid down — Before such a learned assembly as the present, it might be expected that I should give the extract in the original, but, being under the immediate eye of my excellent friend and former preceptor in Sanscrit, I prefer to follow the example lately set by a high official at Oxford and, “to prevent mistakes,” give it in English —

“By honouring guests a householder obtains the highest reward. Let him assiduously honour guests who arrive in the evening. Let him not suffer guests to stay at his house unfed.”

With this appeal to our duty sweetened by the promise of reward, we invited our guests, and we trust the concluding portion of the programme has been carried out to their satisfaction. Among those who have honoured us with their presence this evening, we have representatives of the clerical, military, civil, legal, literary, and educational professions. In the Archbishop of Western Bengal we have a distinguished representative of a religious society, which has laid the people of this city, as well as that of Bombay and other towns, under a deep debt of gratitude for the excellent educational institutions it has established, whose schools and colleges are patterns to all others both in management and results. In my honourable colleague, General Wilson, the army is well represented by one who, having filled with credit the most important offices of his rank, is now the adviser of His Excellency in Council in all matters relating to that army the welfare of which he has warmly at heart. The Civil Service is ably represented by my honourable colleague, Sir Stuart Bayley, whose large administrative experience, added to his intimate knowledge of Bengal, its tenures and its people, make him a most valuable adviser. My learned friend and honourable colleague, Mr Ilbert, by his highly distinguished academical career, and his great knowledge of the science and practice of law, fitly represents the legal profession, while literature has the good fortune to find itself represented by Dr Hunter, whose facile pen has done so much to remove the ignorance which prevailed at

